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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

EDITED BY

N. B. KINNEAR.

VOLUME L.

SESSION 1929–1930.

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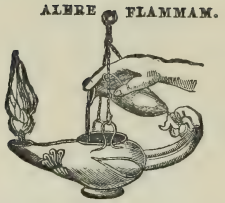

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RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET.

PREFACE.

During the past Session the number of attendances at the meetings of the Club was 458 members and 88 guests, a total of 540, probably a record.

Apart from the usual exhibits, Mr. E. F. Pollock showed an interesting series of slides of Australian birds ; Mr. H. Stevens gave a graphic account of his travels in Western China; Mr. Witherby described a recent ornithological expedition to Spain; and Lord Rothschild showed a wonderful series of some of the rarer Birds-of-Paradise.

At the November meeting, which was held in conjunction with the B. O. U., Dr. Ernst Hartert was presented with the Salvin-Godman Medal. Dr. Hartert has now left England for good, and he will be much missed at the meetings of the Club, where he was always ready to take part in the discussions.

We regret to record the death of several members. Mr. E. Bidwell and Mr. R. H. Read—both original members and for many years very regular in attendance at the meetings—Mr. C. E. Pearson and Mr. J. B. Nichols. Though not a member at the time of his tragic death, we cannot omit to mention Mr. A. F. R. Wollaston, who for seventeen years belonged to the Club.

N. B. KINNEAR,
Editor.

London, July 1930.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(Founded October 5, 1892.)

TITLE AND OBJECTS.

The objects of the Club, which shall be called the "British Ornithologists' Club," are the promotion of social intercourse between Members of the British Ornithologists' Union and to facilitate the publication of scientific information connected with ornithology.

RULES.

(*As amended, May* 9, 1928.)

Management.

I. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of a Chairman, who shall be elected for three years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term; an Editor of the 'Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term; a Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of one year, but shall be eligible for re-election. There shall be in addition four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year, and another Member be elected in his place; every third year the two senior Members shall retire and two other Members be elected in their place. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee nominated by the Committee for the ensuing year, shall be circulated with the notice convening the General Meeting, at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

II. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted, must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will, if he deem fit, call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

III. If the conduct of any Member shall be deemed by the Committee to be prejudicial to the interests of the Club, he may be requested by the Committee to withdraw from the Club. In the case of refusal, his name may be removed from the list of Members at a General Meeting, provided that, in the notice calling the Meeting, intimation of the proposed resolution to remove his name shall have been given, and that a majority of the Members voting at such Meeting record their votes for his removal.

A Member whose name has been removed shall forfeit all privileges of Membership and shall have no claim on the Club from the date of his removal.

Subscriptions.

IV. Any Member of the British Ornithologists' Union may become a Member of the Club on payment to the Treasurer of an entrance-fee of one pound and a subscription of one guinea for the current Session. On Membership of the Union ceasing, Membership of the Club also ceases.

Any Member who has not paid his subscription before the last Meeting of the Session, shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be a Member of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

Any Member who has resigned less than five years ago may be reinstated without payment of another Entrance Fee.

Meetings.

V. The Club will meet, as a rule, on the second Wednesday in every month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee, but should such Wednesday happen to be Ash Wednesday, the Meeting will take place on the Wednesday following. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects will be read, specimens exhibited and described, and discussion invited.

VI. A General Meeting of the Club shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

VII. A Special General Meeting may be called at the instance of the Committee, for any purpose which they deem to be of sufficient importance, or at the instance of not fewer than fifteen Members. Notice of not less than two weeks shall be given of every General and Special General Meeting.

Introduction of Visitors.

VIII. Members may introduce visitors at any ordinary Meeting of the Club, but the same guest shall not be eligible to attend on more than three occasions during the Session. No former Member, who has been removed for non-payment of subscription, or for any other cause, shall be allowed to attend as a guest.

'Bulletin' of the Club.

IX. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the Club shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club' and shall be distributed gratis to every Member who has paid his subscription.

Contributors are entitled to six free copies of the 'Bulletin,' but if they desire to exercise this privilege, they must give notice to the Editor when their manuscript is handed in. Members purchasing extra copies of the 'Bulletin' are entitled to a rebate of 25 per cent. on the published price, but not more than two copies can be sold to any Member unless ordered before printing.

Descriptions of new species may be published in the 'Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the 'Bulletin' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently—subject to the discretion of the Editor—to amplify his remarks in the 'Bulletin,' but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

X. No communication, the whole or any important part of which has already been published elsewhere, shall be eligible for publication in the 'Bulletin,' except at the discretion of the Editor; and no communication made to the Club may be subsequently published elsewhere without the written sanction of the Editor.

Alteration and Repeal of Rules.

XI. Any suggested alteration or repeal of a standing rule shall be submitted to Members to be voted upon at a General Meeting convened for that purpose.

COMMITTEE, 1929–1930.

Dr. P. R. Lowe, *Chairman.* Elected 1927.
N. B. Kinnear, *Editor of the 'Bulletin.'* Elected 1925.
C. W. Mackworth-Praed, *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.* Elected 1929.
A. L. Butler. Elected 1927.
T. H. Newman. Elected 1927.
B. W. Tucker. Elected 1928.
F. J. F. Barrington. Elected 1929.

Officers of the British Ornithologists' Club, Past and Present.

Chairmen.

P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.	1892–1913.
Lord Rothschild, F.R.S.	1913–1918.
W. L. Sclater.	1918–1924.
H. F. Witherby.	1924–1927.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1927–

Editors.

R. Bowdler Sharpe.	1892–1904.
W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.	1904–1914.
D. A. Bannerman.	1914–1915.
D. Seth-Smith.	1915–1920.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1920–1925.
N. B. Kinnear.	1925–

Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers.

Howard Saunders.	1892–1899.
W. E. de Winton.	1899–1904.
H. F. Witherby.	1904–1914.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1914–1915.
C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby.	1915–1918.
D. A. Bannerman.	1918–1919.
Dr. Philip Gosse.	1919–1920.
J. L. Bonhote.	1920–1922.
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1922–1923.
Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1923–1929.
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1929–

LIST OF MEMBERS.

JUNE 1930.

Acland, Miss C. M., Walwood, Banstead, Surrey.

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Witherington, G.; Sumner Plat, Hayward's Heath.

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C. R. Wood; c/o Messrs. Martins Ltd. (marked "Personal"), 54 Sussex Place, South Kensington, S.W. 7.

Workman, William Hughes, F.Z.S.; Lismore, Windsor, Belfast.

Worms, Charles de; Milton Park, Egham, Surrey.

New Members for the Session .. 10
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[Members are specially requested to keep the Hon. Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses, and Members residing abroad should give early notification of coming home on leave.]

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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCXXXV.

The three-hundred-and-thirtieth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W.1, on Wednesday, October 9, 1929.

Chairman: Dr. P. R. Lowe.

Members present:—Miss C. M. Acland; E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; Miss M. G. S. Best; George Brown; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Major R. E. Cheesman; Sir Percy Z. Cox; R. H. Deane; Major S. S. Flower; W. E. Glegg; Rev. J. R. Hale; Col. A. E. Hamerton; R. E. Heath; R. F. Hope; Dr. E. Hopkinson; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); C. Boden Kloss; Dr. G. Carmichael Low; N. S. Lucas; C. W. Mackworth-Praed (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; Dr. P. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; Marquis of Tavistock; A. Landsborough Thomson;

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; B. M. Tucker; H. M. Wallis; C. R. Wood; C. de Worms.

Guests present:—N. B. Coltart; W. H. Hale; J. P. R. Hale; Miss Doreen Hordern; C. M. Inglis; R. Meiklejohn; Ernst Schwartz.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This was held at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, immediately preceding the Dinner. Dr. P. R. Lowe was in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last General Meeting were read. Mr. Bunyard objected to their accuracy. After some discussion they were confirmed with no other dissentient. Dr. G. Carmichael Low presented the Balance Sheet for the year, and pointed out that it showed continued prosperity. The Balance Sheet was duly passed.

The Annual Report was then presented. Dr. Low remarked that the position of the Club was a favourable one. The following members had resigned :—N. B. Coltart, Major Congreve, H. Hughes Onslow, and B. J. Ringrose. No member had to be removed for non-payment of subscription. He regretted to announce the following deaths :—A. K. Collett, Sir F. J. Jackson, J. B. Nichols, R. H. Read, and H. C. Robinson.

Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed was elected Honorary Secretary and Treasurer in place of Dr. G. Carmichael Low retiring. A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring Honorary Secretary.

Mr. F. J. F. Barrington was elected a Member of the Committee in place of Major S. S. Flower retiring through seniority. Mr. Wallis asked if any decision had been made regarding the balance at the Bank. Dr. G. C. Low replied that a sub-committee had been appointed to consider the question of obtaining a room for the Club, but he had not heard what progress had been made.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Twelve months' Financial Statement, 1st September, 1928, to 31st August, 1929.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance in Hand, 1st September, 1928:—		
Cash at Bank, Current a/c .	41 9 8	
do. Deposit a/c...	473 17 3	
In Hands of Treasurer	3 18 11	
		519 5 10
„ Entrance Fees of 8 New Subscribers.....	8 0 0	
„ Subscriptions—177 Members	185 17 0	
		193 17 0
„ Sales of 'Bulletin'		27 13 4
„ Bank Interest		13 10 2
		£754 6 4

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Printing and Distribution of Publications and 'Bulletin'		107 0 6
„ Hire of Lanterns for Annual Dinner with B. O. U., etc.		14 0 0
„ Thomas Wells for compiling and arranging Index to 'Bulletin' B. O. C. xlix. 1928–29		5 5 0
„ Dinner to Delegates of the International Conference on Migratory Wild Fowl, 1927		
„ Contribution to Zoological Society Record		11 5 0
„ Miscellaneous Expenses, including Audit Fee, Printing, Stationery and Postages		13 2 2
Total Payments		150 18 8
„ Balance in Hand, 31st August, 1929:—		
Cash at Bank, Current a/c ...	114 13 4	
do. Deposit a/c.....	487 7 5	
In Hands of Treasurer	1 6 11	
		603 7 8
		£754 6 4

G. CARMICHAEL LOW, *Treasurer.*

We have compared the foregoing Statement with the books and vouchers of the British Ornithologists' Club for the year ended 31 August, 1929, and certify same to be in accordance therewith. We have also verified the Cash at Bank.

23 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C. 4.
10*th September*, 1929.

W. B. KEEN & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Committee, 1929–1930.

Dr. P. R. Lowe, *Chairman* (elected 1927).
N. B. Kinnear, *Editor* (elected 1925).
C. W. Mackworth-Praed, *Hon. Sec. & Treasurer* (elected 1929).
A. L. Butler (elected 1927).
T. H. Newman (elected 1927).
B. W. Tucker (elected 1928).
F. J. F. Barrington (elected 1929).

On behalf of Mr. Collingwood Ingram, Dr. P. R. Lowe read the following note on the occurrence of *Locustella fasciolata* in Ushant :—

On the night of September 26th, 1913, a number of birds struck the Creach light on the island of Ouessant (Ushant), off the coast of Finistère, N.W. France. Amongst these was a specimen of Gray's Grasshopper-Warbler, *Locustella fasciolata* (Gray). The lighthouse-keeper, M. Duchène, said that he recognised the bird as an infrequent visitor to the light. Misled by this statement, I at first imagined that the bird was an immature Great Reed-Warbler, and labelled it as such. I am indebted to Dr. Claude Ticehurst for drawing attention to the mistake. The very minute rictal bristles and graduated tail, of course, prove conclusively that this Warbler belongs to the genus *Locustella* and not to *Acrocephalus*.

In measurements and coloration this Ouessant skin is exactly matched by a specimen in the British Museum taken during the same month (September) by Dr. Hose in the Celebes, and also by undated skins collected by Wallace in the Malay Archipelago where the bird is said to winter.

This is apparently the first time *Locustella fasciolata* has been recorded from Europe.

[Mr. Ingram has very kindly presented the specimen to the British Museum.—Ed.]

Lord Rothschild exhibited coloured drawings of *Casuarius casuarius altijugus* Sclat. and *C. unappendiculatus aurantiacus* Rothsch., done from life by H. Grönvold from birds in the possession of Mr. Whitley at Paignton. He said that, when he published in the 'Transactions of the Zoological Society' the monograph of the Cassowaries, he adopted the view that all the two-wattled Cassowaries were subspecies of the Ceram bird *C. casuarius casuarius*; but the B. O. U. and British Museum Expedition to the Snow Mountains of New Guinea found that the Blue-necked and Sclater's Cassowaries lived in the same area, thus proving that the *bicarunculatus* group of two-wattled Cassowaries was distinct from the *casuarius* group proper. This showed that Sclater was right and Salvadori was wrong; and that the two two-wattled Cassowaries obtained by Laglaize on or around the shores of Geelvink Bay are two distinct species; *C. altijugus* is the representative of the Ceram Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius casuarius* (Linn.), while the other, Salvadori's Cassowary *C. salvadorii* Milne-Edw., is the representative of the Aru Island Two-wattled Cassowary *Casuarius bicarunculatus bicarunculatus*. A contributing factor in the confusion has been that the Continental ornithologists have always applied the name *Casuarius beccarii* to the bird whose real name is *altijugus*. The true *C. beccarii*, however, comes from Wokan Island, Aru Islands, and is a much smaller bird with much smaller wattles and an entirely blue fore neck with no red bands on the throat. He said he exhibited the drawing of the *C. unappendiculatus aurantiacus* because it has not got the orange occipital patch present in the type-specimen, now in the Berlin Museum, but it distinctly shows the orange hind neck and compressed erect helmet, whereas typical *unappendiculalus* from Salwatti Island has the hind neck blue and the helmet three-cornered and depressed behind.

The third drawing exhibited also represents a Cassowary owned by Mr. Whitley. At present he could only say it resembled *C. violicollis*, a form of *C. casuarius*, in the

colours of the naked parts of the head and neck, but it differs from all known Cassowaries in its plumage. It is absolutely adult, but has deep brown plumage, NOT black, and the feathers are spotted with pale fulvous or fawn-colour. He cannot describe it yet, as it may only be a colour-aberration of *C. casuarius violicollis*.

Mr. HUGH WHISTLER forwards the following communication :—

It has been commonly supposed that the Grey Tits of the North-west frontier of India belong to the race *Parus major intermedius* Zarudny, originally described in Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscow (no. 3), vol. iii. p. 789 (1890), from S.W. Transcaspia, and the distribution of this form is accordingly given in the second edition of the Fauna of B. I., Birds, vol. i. p. 76, as Afghanistan, Baluchistan, Chitral, E. Persia, and S.W. Transcaspia. I have had occasion recently to examine the Grey Tits of the Indian region, and, owing to the courtesy of Lord Rothschild and M. Tugarinov, have been able to examine topotypes of *P. m. intermedius* and a series of birds from E. Persia. Birds from S. Transcaspia and E. Persia agree (except that a pronounced green wash on the mantle is perhaps a characteristic of the latter area) in the characters of the tail, which at once separate them from all the Tits that I have examined from Afghanistan and Baluchistan. The penultimate tail-feather is grey with the white reduced to a minimum—namely, a slight white tip on the outer web, and no white wedge or at most a wedge 3 mm. long on the inner web. All specimens obtained in the N.W. Frontier Province have the penultimate tail-feather very largely white, the outer web is almost entirely white, the inner web has a terminal white wedge anything between 20–44 mm. in length. There are slight colour-differences as well, of which the most important is that in *intermedius* the lower parts are very white with little or no vinaceous tint.

Examination of the large series of Tits from N.W. India in the British Museum with a very large number of specimens in the collections of Dr. C. B. Ticehurst and myself show that the Tits of the N.W. Frontier hitherto treated as *P. m. intermedius* belong really to two forms. Those from Peshawar, Murdan, the Kuram valley, and Bannu are referable to *P. m. kaschmiriensis* (type-locality, Gilgit), which certainly breeds as far south as the Kurrum Valley and doubtless in the neighbouring areas of Afghanistan.

A series of birds collected by Dr. C. B. Ticehurst in the mountains of Ziarat, Baluchistan, prove, however, to be distinct, and these I propose to designate as :—

Parus major ziaratensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from its nearest ally, *P. m. kaschmiriensis*, in the slightly paler and bluer grey of the upper parts, the more conspicuous white edging to the tertiaries, and in its smaller stumpier bill, which measures 11·5–12 mm. from the skull, as compared with 11·5 to 13 mm. in *kaschmiriensis*. The third tail-feather, counting from the outermost, is always tipped with white and to a larger extent than in *kaschmiriensis*, which, indeed, often lacks any white tip to that feather; while the fourth tail-feather is also sometimes tipped with white.

Five males measure: wing 73–77, tail 62·5–71 mm.; ♀, wing 71·5, tail 60 mm.

Type C. B. Ticehurst Coll., no. I. 1629. ♂, 30 September 1919, Ziarat, 8500 feet, Baluchistan.

Specimens from Kandahar belong to this form.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst communicated the following notes :—

I have long had in my collection two Sand-Plovers which have always puzzled me, since they are decidedly smaller than *Charadrius leschenaultii* and considerably larger than *Charadrius mongolus*. They were obtained by the late

Mr. J. L. Bonhote at Ras-el-Bar (mouth of the Nile) on July 19, 1918, and September 9, 1917 ; the latter is adult not quite finished in its moult, the former a juvenile of the year. The measurements are as follow :—

	Wing. mm.	Culmen exposed. mm.	Culmen from base. mm.
♀ ad.....	130+	21·5	26
♂ juv.....	128	21·5	26

Col. Meinertzhagen informs me he too has similar birds from Kosseir and Aden (Red Sea), Palestine coast, and Western Egypt, of which he gives the following measurements :—

	Wing. mm.	Culmen exposed. mm.	Culmen from base. mm.
♀, Kosseir, 21. 2. 28....	142	20·5	26
?, Aden, 7. 7. 22....	137	21·5	26·5
♂, „ 6. 2. 22....	138	24	30
?, „ „	136	25	28
♂, „ „	146	25	30
9, Palestine.....	132–142	20–25	28–30
♀, W. Egypt, 30. 1. 20....	134	23	29
♀, „ „	141	25·5	29

A large series of Indian *leschenaultii* I measured as follows :—

	Wing. mm.	Culmen exposed. mm.	Culmen from base. mm.
♂♂, India	140–148	23·5–26·5	30–32
♀♀, „	139–150	25–27	30–33

It is obvious that most of these Western birds are decidedly smaller than Indian ones (which are topotypes of *leschenaultii*), and they seem to be a trifle paler on the upper parts.

Nothing is known about the breeding of the Plover, but the supposed breeding-quarters are in N.E. Asia. If this is so, I think it may be assumed that the middle of June would be about the time for the earliest eggs in so far north a latitude (there are numbers of birds in full breeding-dress still on the Sind coast early in June), and that it would be impossible, therefore, for a bird of the year to reach Egypt by July 19th from that breeding-ground. It would seem, therefore, that there must be a Western breeding-area, as yet also unknown, whence come these small Western birds. Sarudny says that this Sand-Plover breeds in parts of Persia, Von Heuglin records it as a resident bird in N.E. Africa (many non-breeding birds over summer in the winter-quarters in India and no doubt elsewhere) ; Nicoll says that possibly a few pairs sometimes breed in Egypt. No one, however, has as yet discovered it breeding anywhere in the west, but I may remark that there are vast areas not only of the Egyptian littoral but also in the Red Sea in which it has never been looked for in the breeding-season.

I certainly think that a Western race must be recognised, and fortunately the name of it is quite easily discovered. *Chr. geoffroyi* is a pure synonym of *leschenaultii*, and the name applicable is :—

Charadrius columbinus Wagler, Isis, 1829, p. 650 (type in Berlin Mus.). Habitat in Arabia, ex Hempr. & Ehr. MS.

Dr. Stresemann kindly informs me that the type measures : Wing 135, bill exp. 22 mm. A synonym of *columbinus* is *Ægialitis gigas* Brehm, Vogelfang. (p. 283), 1855, Suez.

This type is in the Tring Museum, where I have examined it. It is in winter dress (Nov.), and measures : ♂, wing 137, bill exp. 22·5, 28 mm. from base.

The recognition of a small race of *leschenaultii* shows the utter impossibility of recognizing separate genera, *Pagoa* for *leschenaultii* and *Cirrepidesmus* for *atrifrons*, the two being entirely linked up by *columbinus*. Personally, I recognize neither genera.

It appears to have been overlooked that the name *Falco tinnunculus japonicus* Temminck & Schlegel, Siebold's 'Fauna Japonica, Aves,' p. 2, pls. 1 and 1 B, 1844, cannot be used for the Japanese Kestrel, as it is preoccupied by Gmelin's *Falco japonicus* in the Syst. Nat. i. p. 257 (1789).

As there seems to be no other name available, I propose:—

Falco tinnunculus japonensis, nom. nov.,

for the bird described by Temminck and Schlegel, *loc. cit.*

STREPTOPELIA DECAOCTO DECAOCTO.

It seems that Linnæus's name *risoria*, long used for this bird, has been dropped on insufficient grounds. In the tenth edition Linnæus's description is "supra lutescens, lunula cervicali nigra." He gives "Habitat in India," and adds "nobis communis *Turtur*." On the strength of his describing the upper parts as "lutescens" or yellowish and his reference to the bird being "our common Dove," *i. e.*, cage Dove, this name for our Indian bird has been dropped. But, on the other hand, all the authors Linnæus refers to—Aldrovandus, Ray, and Albin—clearly indicated our Indian bird. Moreover, quite another meaning can be applied to *lutescens*. It is not a classical Latin word, and might be derived from two sources *lūteus*, of a yellowish colour, or *lŭteus*, of a clay-colour,—and, if the latter derivation is taken, then the description fits our Indian bird well.

Mr. GREGORY M. MATHEWS sent the following descriptions of new forms:—

Zosterops lateralis norfolkensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Z. l. lateralis* (Latham), in having a much greener throat, a smaller bill, and darker head.

Type, in the Tring Museum. ♂. Near Kingston, Norfolk I., 8. iv. 13. Roy Bell, No. 930, ex Mathews Coll.

Catharacta antarctica batchelori, subsp. nov., for the bird described in my 'Birds of Norfolk and Lord Howe Island,' p. 116, 16 October, 1928.

Type, in the Melbourne Museum. Adult. Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia.

Megapodius reinwardt yorki, subsp. nov.

Differs from *M. tumulus* Gould in having the crown of the head and back more rufous—they are smaller.

Type, in the Tring Museum. ♂. Cedar Bay, 18. vi. 93. North Queensland.

Distr. Cape York to Cairns.

Cyrtostomus frenatus valia, nom. nov., for *C. f. olivaceus* Mathews, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. xlvii. p. 68, 1926 ; not Smith, Illustr. South Africa, 1839.

If the genus *Thalassogeron* be considered congeneric with *Diomedea*, then *Diomedea alexanderi* Dabbene, Physis B. Aires, viii. 1827, p. 563, must have a new name ; it can be called

Diomedea dabbenena, nom. nov.

Glycifohia, gen. nov.

Differs from *Ramsayornis* Mathews in having a bill longer than the head, and the tail-feathers more pointed.

Type, *Glyciphila notabilis* Sharpe.

As *Glyciphila notabilis* Sharpe is preoccupied by Finsch, Notes Leyden Mus. vol. xx. p. 130, 1898, it can be called

Glycifohia gonada, new name.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 1929, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

After the dinner and before the meeting of the Club a special meeting of the Union will be held and the Salvin-Godman Medal will be presented to Dr. Ernst Hartert on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, which was on October 19, and in recognition of his great services to Ornithology. Any members of the Union who are not members of the Club are invited to attend the dinner and meeting, and it is hoped that there will be a good muster of members to celebrate the occasion. Will all those intending to dine inform the Hon. Secretary, C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. 7?

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

PURCHASED

Bird Mem.

BRITISH MUSEUM
ZOOLOGY

3 — 1929
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCXXXVI.

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Chairman: Major S. S. Flower.

Members present:—Miss C. M. Acland; E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; Miss M. G. S. Best; P. R. E. Browne; P. F. Bunyard; Hon. G. L. Charteris; H. P. O. Cleave; A. B. Duncan; A. H. Evans; A. Ezra; W. E. Glegg; Rev. J. R. Hale; Col. A. E. Hamerton; Dr. E. Hartert; Dr. E. Hopkinson; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. S. Lucas; C. W. Mackworth-Praed (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Capt. W. E. F. Macmillan; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; G. M. Mathews; E. G. B Meade-Waldo; J. L. Chaworth Musters; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; F. R. Ratcliff; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; Marquis of Tavistock; W. H. Thorpe; B. W. Tucker; Miss E. L. Turner; H. M. Wallis; H. F. Witherby; C. R. Wood; C. G. M. de Worms.

Members of the B. O. U.:—Salim A. Ali; Miss P. Barclay-Smith; Miss E. M. Knobel; Bertram Lloyd; J. G. Millais; Lt.-Col. W. A. Payn; F. G. Swayne; A. G. Vevers; T. Wells.

Guests:—H. A. Evans; Mrs. Flower; C. J. Fuller; H. Grönvold; J. P. R. Hale; Mrs. Hartert; E. P. Pollock.

Presentation of the Godman-Salvin Medal to Dr. Ernst Hartert.

In order to celebrate his seventieth birthday, the Committee of the B. O. U. decided to award the Godman-Salvin Medal to Dr. Hartert, and it was arranged, in co-operation with the Committee of the Club, that the presentation should take place at the meeting on the 13th of November.

Accordingly after dinner Major S. S. Flower invited Mr. W. L. Sclater, the President of the B. O. U., to take the Chair.

Mr. Sclater then spoke as follows:—"Brother and Sister Ibises, the meeting of the Club is now transformed into a meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union for the purpose of awarding to Dr. Hartert the Godman-Salvin Medal, and I am very glad to see so large and representative a gathering to do honour to our very dear friend and Fellow Ibis.

"Dr. Hartert, whom we all know and revere as the most learned and industrious of our brotherhood, reached his seventieth birthday on 29 October last, and has recently returned from Berlin, where the German Ornithological Society held a festival in his honour and presented him with a 'Festschrift.' This took the form of a special supplementary number of the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' containing a number of papers by his friends and admirers specially dedicated to him. We, wishing to do him like honour, believe that we can best accomplish this by presenting him with the Godman-Salvin Medal, which was instituted in 1919 in memory of Messrs. Godman and Salvin, two of the

founders of the Union, and was to be awarded from time to time for distinguished work in Ornithology.

"In addition to Dr. Hartert's scientific work, we all appreciate his unselfish readiness in supplying information and material when required. This help is accorded as readily to the beginner as to the expert.

"This Medal has hitherto only once been awarded—in 1922 to Dr. William Eagle Clarke, our President from 1918 to 1921. It gives me personally especial pleasure to present, on behalf of the Union, this Medal to Dr. Hartert, as I can claim to be his oldest English friend. It was in 1888, now forty-one years ago, that we first met in the Indian Museum in Calcutta, where Hartert and his great friend Doherty had just arrived from a collecting-trip through the Dutch East Indies and Malay Peninsula. Furthermore, either that day or a few days later, Mr. Stuart Baker, our Secretary and Treasurer, came to see me in the Museum and also met Hartert for the first time.

"I give you the toast of Dr. Ernst Hartert."

After the toast had been duly honoured, Mr. Sclater presented the Godman-Salvin Medal to Dr. Hartert.

Dr. Hartert, on receiving the Medal, replied as follows:—

"Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen, I have to thank you for all the good wishes so kindly expressed by the Chairman, and for awarding me the Godman-Salvin Medal, which has made me the proudest man of the evening.

"I came to England 37 years ago, full of expectations of much work to be done in our beloved science, and how wonderfully those expectations have been fulfilled through the generosity of the present Lord Rothschild!

"How changed is the brotherhood of ornithologists since those days when Bowdler Sharpe and Ogilvie-Grant were in the Bird Room at the British Museum, and one frequently met there Salvin, Godman, Seebohm, Hargitt, Harting, Tristram, Dresser, Saunders, Shelley, and others, while at the Zoological Society P. L. Sclater reigned, and Newton and Gadow were at Cambridge. Two of my oldest English friends, however, are with us to-night—W. L. Sclater and

Stuart Baker, both of whom I first met in Calcutta in 1888. A few other old friends are still left and I have many new ones belonging to a rather younger generation, of whom much good work may be expected.

"The Chairman has referred to my readiness to give advice and help in comparing and lending material from Tring Museum. It has always been my greatest pleasure to do that, and I consider it the duty of every Curator to make the material in the museum under his charge available for scientific workers, not only for those who are able to visit the museum, but also for workers in all parts of the world. I am glad to say that my chief and friend, Lord Rothschild, is of the same opinion, and is always only too pleased that his collections should be put to the best use. The large collections in museums are only justified when the material is made available to the world of science.

"Though naturally the greatest part of my life-work is done, I still hope to be able for a few years to continue as before."

Mr. Sclater then vacated the Chair to Major Flower.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited the two clutches (two eggs in each case) of Pallas's Sand-Grouse (*Syrrhaptes paradoxus*) which were laid near Beverley, Yorkshire, in June and July 1888. These eggs were recorded in Nelson's 'Birds of Yorkshire,' Newton's 'Dictionary of Birds,' Saunders's 'Manual' (2nd ed.), etc., but, though sent for inspection to Professor Newton at Cambridge in 1888, have never been previously shown in London, but remained till recently in the north of England. Both sets were figured in colour in the 'Transactions of the Hull Scientific and Field Naturalists' Club,' vol. iii. pt. 4, pl. xxxii. (1907). This species bred on the Culbin Sands in Morayshire in 1888 and 1889, and a young bird was obtained in the latter year and was figured in the 'Ibis,' 1890, pl. vii. A clutch of two eggs was also taken in the same district by a rabbiter in 1888, but there is some doubt as to whether they were

correctly identified, and apparently the eggs are no longer in existence (for details see the 'Fauna of the Moray Area,' ii. p. 137). Breeding is also said to have taken place in Nottingham, but here also the eggs were destroyed, so that the Yorkshire eggs are the only ones laid in the British Isles under natural conditions now in existence. One clutch is darker in ground-colour than the other, but both are typical of the species.

PROBABLE RECURRENCE OF A PAIR OF LAMMERGEIER (*GYPAËTUS BARBATUS GRANDIS* STORR.) IN SOUTH-WESTERN ALPS.

Mr. H. M. WALLIS made the following remarks :—

"Early in last August my grandson, Edward A. Wallis, picked up the feather exhibited 'among sparse pine-trees on a hill above a village' in the South-western Alps. The ground was about 8000 ft. above sea-level, the country rough and wild, with crags not far away.

"Mr. Kinnear identifies the feather as an under tail-covert of a Lammergeier.

"My friend, Mr. Arthur B. Gillett, of Oxford, who was with my grandson at the time, saw, when about a mile from where the feather was found, a pair of large birds floating around some crags, and, as he writes me, said, 'Those birds look more like gulls with pointed wings and the bend in them. . . . . I do not know what they are. They are not Eagles and not Buzzards.'

"Mr. Gillett is a good field-naturalist and knows the Golden Eagle and some of the South African Raptors, but has no acquaintance with *Gypaëtus*.

"On receiving the feather I sent him the two sketches exhibited, and he initialled the one with bent and pointed wings, an enlargement of a sketch I made of the African Lammergeier when at El Kantara.

"Mr. Gillett describes both birds as 'dark all over, which would agree with immature Lammergeiers.' (I doubt if he saw the upper surface of either.)

"As *Gypaëtus barbatus grandis* has been practically, if not actually, exterminated in Switzerland, and there are few, if any, recent records from the southern slopes of the Alps, Lord Rothschild has encouraged me to place these facts before the Club for what they may be worth."

Lord Rothschild said that he quite believed that, although the Lammergeier was apparently extinct in French Savoy, it appeared frequently in that region, for it was still a breeding species in Italian Savoy, mostly in the King's Game Reserve.

He personally had only seen the Lammergeier in nature in two places—firstly, in Algeria, and, secondly, he believed he was one of the very few people who had seen the last Swiss Lammergeier alive ; he saw it in 1881 on the Julier Pass between Thusis and Mühlen. The bird was shot some years later on the Italian side of the Engadine (Grisons). The European race was *Gypaëtus barbatus grandis* Storr, which stretched from Spain to Manchuria, while the North African form was the true *G. barbatus barbatus* Linn., and a third race, *G. barbatus meridionalis* Keys. & Blas., occurs from Abyssinia through East Africa to the Drakensberg.

Dr. Kuroda sent the following correction :—

In the Bull. B. O. Club, vol. xliii. no. cclxxvi. p. 108, 1923, I described the Pigmy Woodpecker from Yakushima, south of Kiusiu, Japan, naming it *Yungipicus kizuki harterti*. Mr. James L. Peters, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard, has recently pointed out to me that the subspecific name *harterti* is already preoccupied by *Dendrocopus major harterti* Arrigoni (1902), the Sardinian form of the Great Spotted Woodpecker. *Yungipicus* is not considered generically separable from *Dryobates* by Hartert, Stresemann, Bangs, and others, and I therefore rename my bird

Dryobates kizuki petersi, nom. nov.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following :—

Stictocarbo punctatus sassi, subsp. nov.

Differs from *S. p. punctatus* in being smaller. The average measurements of eight skins of *punctatus* are : females 246 mm. and the males 251. The same for four skins of the North Island bird is 235 mm.

Type in the Vienna Museum from North Island, in the Reischeck collection.

Huttonena, new name for *Cabalus* Hutton, 1874, not *Caballus* Rafinesque, Analyse, 1815, p. 55.

Sterna striata aucklandorna, new name for *Sterna bethunei* Buller, Trans. New Zeal. Inst. vol. xxviii. p. 349, June 1896, which is preoccupied by *Sterna bethunei*, p. 348 = *Sterna vittata*.

Exhibition of Lantern-slides of Australian Birds and their Nests, by Mr. E. F. Pollock.

The outstanding feature of Mr. Pollock's exhibit was the excellent photographs of the different kinds of sea-birds, including a nesting-colony of the Australian Gannet (*Sula serrator*) at Cape Kidnappers, New Zealand, Masked Gannets (*S. personata*) on the Admiralty Islands, Brown Gannets (*S. leucogaster*), Sooty Terns (*Sterna anæstheta*), also on Admiralty Islands ; Crested Terns (*S. bergi*) ; and Silver Gulls (*Larus novæ-hollandiæ*) on the Capricorn Islands. In each case several slides were shown, giving practically a life-history of the bird from egg to adult.

The series of photographs of Albatrosses (*Diomedia*) and Mollymawks (*Thalassarche*) were much admired, and so too were the interesting pictures of an Emu approaching its nest and brooding its eggs.

Three Kingfishers—the Kookaburra or Laughing Jackass (*Dacelo gigas*), Red-backed (*Halcyon pyrrhopygia*), and Sacred (*H. sancta*)—were shown near their nests, which were either in a hole in a tree or in a termites' nest. The slides of the delightful little Black-and-White Fan-tailed Flycatcher (*Rhipidura tricolor*), unfortunately also known as a "Willie

Wagtail," were also much admired, especially the one showing the hen bird brooding its chicks in the hand of the photographer's assistant.

Mr. Pollock gave an amusing account of Mr. Webb's experience in removing a nest of the Pied Butcher-bird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*) from the top of a tree to a more suitable elevation for photographing, and how one bird persistently attacked him while climbing the tree and even kept watch over him while in his hide.

Several slides were exhibited of the nest of the Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza*), which is remarkable because usually a double nest is constructed—a shallow unlined nest above the nest proper. This extra nest is said to be used by the cock bird, and in one photograph the birds appear to have even gone so far as to make a third chamber, but for what purpose no explanation was offered.

Mr. Pollock also showed a large number of pictures of other Australian birds and their nests.

At the close of the exhibit, Mr. Pollock, on the motion of the Chairman, was awarded a hearty vote of thanks by the Club.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 1929, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. 7.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

Bird Room.

PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCXXXVII.

The three-hundred-and-thirty-second Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, December 11, 1929.

Chairman: Dr. P. R. Lowe.

Members present:—Miss C. M. Acland; W. Shore Bailey; E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; G. L. Bates; Miss M. G. S. Best; George Brown; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; Sir Percy Z. Cox; R. H. Deane; A. H. Evans; Major S. S. Flower; W. E. Glegg; Rev. J. R. Hale; A. E. Hamerton; B. G. Harrison; Dr. E. Hartert; R. L. Heath; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); Dr. G. Carmichael Low; Dr. N. S. Lucas; Rear-Ad. H. Lynes, R.N.; C. W. Mackworth-Praed (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; J. H. McNeile; A. H. Meiklejohn; J. L. Chaworth Musters; C. Oldham; B. B. Osmaston; Lord Rothschild; C. B. Rickett; W. L. Sclater; Major A. G. L. Sladen; Marquis of Tavistock; W. H. Thorpe; B. W. Tucker; Hugh Whistler; H. F. Witherby; C. R. Wood; C. G. M. de Worms.

Guests :—H. A. Evans ; Mrs. Flower; Mrs. Haig-Thomas ; Miss E. Haig-Thomas ; J. P. R. Hale ; Mrs. Mary Herrmann ; F. D. Mackie ; Q. P. Meiklejohn.

Chairman's Annual Address.

Part I. (Abstract).

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I now propose to read the customary Chairman's Address.

Last year I departed from the usual course and form which this address has taken in the past, and on that occasion I asked your permission to take as read that part of it which dealt with a review of the activities of our fellow-members during the year which had just elapsed. I now ask you to allow me to take a similar course, and to refer in the short time at my disposal to the subject of "Hybridization in Birds in its possible Relation to the Evolution of the Species." There is no doubt whatever that hybridization in birds is a very common phenomenon, far commoner than we formerly supposed; but I am not going to occupy your time this evening in trying to prove a truism, or in describing some of the many interesting cases of hybridization which undoubtedly do exist in birds, and then leaving it at that*. What I propose to do is to take a few groups of birds and consider the subject solely from the point of view of the possible part which hybridization may have played in the evolution of the species. Botanists have lately brought the subject of hybridization very much to the front, and I venture to think that nothing has given us a better practical idea of the sort of thing a species is—presuming, of course, that such a thing exists—than the study and analysis by botanists and mendelists of the behaviour of plants during

* Maps and specimens illustrating overlap and hybridization were exhibited at the meeting.

the process of reproduction or hybridization. For this reason I propose to preface my remarks about hybridization in birds by a reference to a very remarkable instance of the extensive scale on which hybridization in plants has lately been discovered to be taking place in a perfectly natural way in New Zealand, and I shall do so because I believe that by a preliminary consideration of this sort we may be more likely to arrive at a correct and true appreciation of the factors which have given origin to certain groups of birds which I shall bring in a few minutes before your notice.

Some six or seven years ago, Dr. L. Cockayne, F.R.S., discovered, quite by accident, in the virgin forest of New Zealand that hybridization of plants was going on to an extent that was quite phenomenal. Very briefly put, he found that in certain places where the forest had been cut down, or on the edge of the forest, groups of these hybrid trees, shrubs, or plants were springing up in all directions. So far as is known, nothing on the same scale seems to have been noted anywhere else in the world, and it seems to be worth reflecting that in this connection New Zealand constitutes an area which has been isolated from the rest of the world for an immense period of time. So that you may form some idea of the scale on which hybridization of plants in New Zealand is taking place, I may add that 290 groups of wild hybrids belonging to 42 families and 92 genera have been listed by Cockayne himself. Following upon Cockayne's discoveries, Professor Lotsy, who was greatly interested in hybridization considered in the light of evolution, was invited (1925) to give three lectures on the subject before the New Zealand University. These lectures were published, and from the point of view of throwing a fresh side-light on the problem of the origin of new species or on our conception of the nature of a species are of very great interest and utility.

The Chairman then went on to give a brief sketch of hybridization from the angle at which Lotsy viewed it. He pointed out that although a hybrid in the past was regarded as little more than a freak or a curiosity to

arouse the interest of the collector, Lotsy's idea of hybridization was on an altogether different and higher plane. Put in an extremely condensed form, Lotsy suggested that if it were true that there was no such thing as a pure culture in Nature—that in Nature no two absolutely identical gametes, pure and homozygous for the very same characters, ever meet—then sexual reproduction is, after all, only what might be described as a normal form of hybridization. There was an opportunity for a change or commingling of characters in both. That was the only path to progressive evolution, because, firstly, no proof of the inheritance of changes occurring in the somatic, or "body," tissues of an animal, during its life-time, had ever been forthcoming, although Lamarck, Darwin, and many other most able zoologists had repeatedly attempted to show that they were so inherited; and, secondly, because if two really homozygous gametes conjugated under conditions of ideal isolation, their progeny would go on breeding true until the crack of doom—no matter what the environment, and granting that that environment allowed them to live at all. One of the most important results of hybridization was the creation—simultaneously—of a large number of new forms. Thus from one cross, especially in plants, a whole swarm of very different new forms might arise. They arose suddenly, they arose entirely independently of environment; many had diametrically opposite characters to those normally exhibited by either parent; and, incidentally, it may be added, it was only after they had come into existence, and not till then, that the effects of environment and selection could be brought to bear—"and then only from a survival point of view." Elimination and selection as regards the New Zealand hybrid plants occurred, we are told, on a devastating scale, so that individual groups of hybrids becoming isolated, *inter se*, and breeding true for various segregated characters, might well be taken for and described as new species—as, in fact, they often had been in the past. If this was not the way some species had arisen in the past, it was, at any rate, difficult to believe that these New Zealand

hybrids came into the world as a practical joke. If it was the way, then it was a story of origin very different from that of Lamarck's and Darwin's.

The Chairman then went on to briefly describe some of the series of hybrid plants from New Zealand, which had been collected by Dr. Hill, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and exhibited by him at the Imperial College of Science. These "swarms" of hybridization segregates, exhibiting such diversity, *inter se*, and resulting from the crossing of parent forms, which also differed from the offspring, doubtless played an important part in the evolution of the species. It was difficult to believe that hybridization occurred on such a big scale in a perfectly natural way in an island which had been isolated from the rest of the world for such a prodigious time for no rhyme or reason. It must surely reflect some method behind the plan of evolution, some method to ensure a commingling of characters, even if only in times of evolutional emergency. The method had in the past been overlooked, although in the case of plants and invertebrates it was undoubtedly common enough; while he thought many parallel cases might be found in the class Aves. For instance, in this very area of New Zealand there were the Moas, a group of extinct flightless birds, whose extraordinary diversity had been explained as a direct response to the environmental conditions or to the effects of isolation, due to the alternate depression and upheaval, with consequent insulation, of the ancient New Zealand. Thirty-eight distinct species of Moas referable to seven genera had been described, ranging from giants like *Dinornis maximus* to such dodo-like dwarfs as *Anomalopteryx didiformis*. Diversity in many different respects was exhibited, and all this heterogeneous swarm of diverse forms, each with its own specific population, had had to be herded together into an area one-eighth the size of Great Britain and Ireland. Bearing these facts in mind, it was difficult to resist the conclusion that in the Moas of New Zealand we were faced with a swarm of hybridization segregates analogous to the "plant swarms" described by Cockayne and Lotsy in the same

islands. The explanation of such diversities within a group was not forthcoming by an appeal to pure mutations or to a theory of the transmissibility of acquired characters, both of which propositions seemed more and more difficult to substantiate as time and research went on. Such vague ideas, too, that small islands, with a restricted scope in a nurtural sense, would have tended to produce small Moas, and *vice versâ*, had been considerably upset by the discovery of the pigmy hippopotami and pigmy elephants, which once inhabited the Mediterranean area. The occurrence and distribution of these were referred to by the Chairman, who drew the conclusion that pigmy elephants were obviously not necessarily or generally to be regarded as having been pigmy because they lived in pigmy areas. He further pointed out that although one might be deprived of the nurtural factor in environment as an explanation of the diversity in size in the Moas, and although one might be deprived of the conception of the pure mutation, for which there seemed little more excuse than for the belief in spontaneous generation, and although one might similarly have to throw overboard the dogma of the transmissibility of acquired characters, one was still fortunately left with the conception of heterozygous gametes—which, at any rate, were capable of producing plenty of diversity in the offspring resulting from their union. He thought, therefore, that we might look to crossing in the past to explain the diversity of the Moa, while, for this reason and in order to express in one word the diversity arising as the result of such crossing, he proposed to designate such an assemblage of hybridization segregates as was represented by the Moas of New Zealand by the term "*mictogone*" (*μῆξις* a mixture, *γονη* offspring).

There was another group of islands in which were found species-groups exhibiting great diversity within the limits of what had been regarded as a genus or even as two or three genera, but which diversity, it seemed to the Chairman, might with equal propriety be looked upon as occurring within the compass of a single Linnean species. He referred to the Galapagos Islands, famous for all time

as harbouring Darwin's genus of Finches—the Geospizas. Twenty-two species, excluding subspecies, had been described, and these were distributed over some fourteen islands. Some of these "species," such as *Geospiza strenua*, had been found on as many as eleven islands, while, in the case of Duncan Island, no less than ten different "species" were herded together in an area of only twelve square miles. As was well known, the diversity existed in regard to the form and shape of the bills of all those various "species." Lord Rothschild had figured thirty-five different forms on one plate, of which sixteen represented diverse forms of one "species"—*Geospiza strenua*. In addition to this remarkable state of affairs, it was to be noted that the physical conditions (climate and flora) of all the islands of the group were remarkably similar, and that in any given island there were no physical features which could conceivably lend themselves to any isolating effects, so far as finches were concerned. How then could we reconcile the occurrence of these twenty-two "species" of finches, all as a matter of fact remarkably alike as regards colour-pattern, but differing, in regard to the degree of pigmentation of the feathers, with the theory that environment had played any direct part in their origin when we had practically positive proof that no diversity of environment existed. As, for instance, regards the correlation of food and the diversity in the shape of the bill, Beebe had found from personal observation that "birds utterly dissimilar in relative proportions of mandibles were feeding upon identical food; and food, moreover, which showed no signs of being crushed." It seemed, therefore, to the Chairman that the problem of the Galapagos finch, as Bateson had always maintained, was much more satisfactorily explained on the assumption that the segregates of a cross between ancestral forms in the past had been distributed over an area, not necessarily at that time so insulated, and that they had then been subsequently isolated, than on the basis of any theory of variability.

The finches of the genus *Nesospiza* of the Tristan d'Acunha group probably presented a very similar condition of things,

although hardly more than suggestive, owing to want of scientific collecting and the paucity of material.

The Chairman then briefly referred to the case of the Æpyornithidæ and Mullerornithidæ of Madagascar as giving us another similar example, very much on all fours with the Moas of New Zealand. But, as he then proceeded to point out, examples of these groups of segregating hybrids or "plethogams" were by no means confined to islands which had been isolated for long periods from the main land-masses. In a certain restricted area in Burmah and the Shan States, for instance, species of the genus *Gennæus*, viz., *G. nycthemerus, horsfieldi*, and *lineatus*, themselves doubtless persistent relics of hybrid origin, had converged and rehybridized so that almost every valley in a much-eroded area was characterized by possessing some isolated race or segregate which had become more or less constant, and on which names had been bestowed by systematists. The experimental researches of Ghizi, Lotsy, Mrs. Haig Thomas, and Phillips had clearly proved that many of the races so recognised by systematists could be recovered in the breeding-pen by suitable crossing of parent forms like *nycthemerus, lineatus*, and *horsfieldi*. Here, again, the Chairman thought the term "*mictogone*" might be applied to express the kind of thing which this group of Silver-Pheasants represented. Again, all the evidence pointed very strongly to the conclusion that the true Pheasants of the genus *Phasianus* represented just such another "marriage-crowd" or plethogam. It had long been recognised, for instance, that hybridization between the various races of pheasant was very common, and that the offspring were fertile. Ogilvie-Grant had pointed out, too, that the group as a whole could be subdivided into a group with ruby-red rumps, finely barred tails, and with white collar present or absent, and a group with green rumps, broad-barred tail, and white collar present or absent. The first of these was represented by the *Phasianus colchicus* group, the second by *Ph. torquatus* and its allies. If A stood for the first and B for the second, then A + B might express

an intermediate group represented by *Ph. chrysomelus* and its allies—the whole assemblage of diverse forms now more or less geographically isolated, representing hybridization segregates resulting from the crossing of forms which existed, let us say, in the Pleistocene or Tertiary, although some hybrid forms such as *P. h. shawi* seem of more recent origin. As regards the group of Guinea-fowls, Ghigi again obtained results, by experimental crossings, which were very similar to those obtained in the case of the Silver-Pheasants. He concluded that of the seventeen species and subspecies about half might be regarded as forms derived from natural cross-matings. Such results are confirmed by actual examination of the skins. Finally, had time permitted, there were other examples of hybridization in birds which might have been mentioned. Some of these had been exhibited that night, illustrated with maps and actual specimens. There were among them well-known and now almost classic examples, all drawn from the Passeres. They were examples of hybrid mating resulting from overlap of distributional areas.

Part II.

It is with great regret that I have to record the loss of five members of our Club by death, viz., Mr. A. K. Collett, Sir Frederick J. Jackson, Mr. J. B. Nichols, Mr. R. H. Read, and Mr. H. C. Robinson. We are also lamenting the death of numerous ornithologists who have played a conspicuous part in our science both at home and abroad ; among these I would like to mention the names of Abel Chapman, Robert Ridgway, Jonathan Dwight, Eiler Lehn Schöler, James Sibree, Charles Hose, E. Forbush, Waldron de Witt Miller, and Frederic A. Lucas.

As regards work in the field, Mr. Willoughby Lowe made a short expedition to the Gambia, where he was successful, thanks to the active sympathy and co-operation of His Excellency the Governor and Dr. E. Hopkinson, in making a large collection of the characteristic birds of the country, previously but poorly represented in the British Museum

Collection. We have to congratulate Mr. Lowe on the good and necessary piece of work accomplished in connection with the vultures of this area, of which a notice has already appeared in the 'Ibis.' On returning to England, Mr. Willoughby Lowe joined the expedition to Madagascar which had been organised by Mr. Percy R. Lowe, with the active help of Mr. N. B. Kinnear. This was a joint expedition, in which America, France, and Great Britain shared. It would not have been possible to arrange had it not been for the generous financial assistance of Mr. Arthur Vernay and Mr. R. Archbold ; for the promise to lead the expedition in the field on the part of M. Jean Delacour ; or for the indefatigable work of Dr. L. Sanford, of America. Mr. E. I. White, of the Geological Department of the British Museum, joined the expedition a fortnight after it had landed on the island. Up to date, skins of some 5000 birds and 500 mammals have been collected, as well as a large number of fossils.

Among other members who have been active in the field must be mentioned : The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain in Cyprus ; Mr. H. Whistler and Dr. Claude Ticehurst in Bosnia and Monte Negro ; Dr. Ernst Hartert in Algeria and Morocco ; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Witherby in Spain ; Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker and General Betham in Finland ; Major W. M. Congreve in North Iceland ; Mr. P. W. Munn has been doing consistently good work in Mallorca for some long period, having added thirty-nine species to the list of birds recorded for that island ; while Mr. P. W. Reynolds has been doing some very excellent work in Tierro del Fuego, whence he has, from time to time, sent home valuable specimens of embryos, chicks, and adult birds preserved in spirit or forwarded in cold storage, in addition to interesting skin-collections. The value to ornithological science resulting from this kind of collecting can hardly be over-appreciated.

Turning to work in the field of ornithologists other than members of the Club, I would refer more especially to the operations of Dr. Mayr in Dutch New Guinea, where he has made, so we learn, enormous collections. We hear, too, that

Mr. Hachisuka has been paying a visit to the Philippines, and that Dr. Hugo Granvik is back at his post on Mount Elgon in East Africa.

The following papers were read during the Session :— "On the Riddle of the Pecten in the Bird's Eye," by Professor Arthur Thompson ; "On Ornithology as an Aid to Medical Science," by Dr. Patrick Manson-Bahr.

The following exhibits were especially notable, and the trouble taken in their assemblage and arrangement was much appreciated by members :—(1) Lord Rothschild's exhibit of colour varieties ; (2) Lord Rothschild's exhibit of Hybrid Ducks, supplemented by examples from the British Museum.

We pass now to a consideration of some of the principal works which have been completed during the Session :—

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker has completed his sixth volume of the second edition of the 'Fauna of British India' ; Mr. Mathews has brought out 'The Birds of Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands,' a companion volume to that author's 'Birds of Australia,' to which it is also partly a supplement ; while Mr. Taverner's 'Birds of Western Canada,' published in 1926, has proved so popular that a second edition has had to be printed, and another part of Mr. Henry's 'Coloured Plates of the Birds of Ceylon' has been issued.

Dr. Arrigoni's 'Ornithologia Italiana' will be the standard work on the ornithology of Italy for some time to come, as will also Chevalier van Havre's 'Les Oiseaux de la Faune Belge' for Flemish birds, and Dr. I. Hortling has issued the first half of his handbook of the Birds of Finland.

In regard to British birds, three useful Faunal volumes have been published : 'The Birds of Essex,' by Mr. Glegg ; 'Birds of S.E. Devon,' by Mr. Lloyd ; and 'Birds of Ayrshire,' by Messrs. Patton and Pyke.

Lord Tavistock's 'Parrots and Parrot-like Birds in Aviculture,' and Dr. Carmichael Low's 'List of the Animals in the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London' (volume dealing with birds) will be of great use to all aviculturists.

Part vii. of the late Mr. Swann's 'Monograph of the Accipitres' has appeared under the editorship of Dr. Wetmore, and Miss Sturgis has written a useful little 'Field-book of the Birds of the Panama Zone' which should be in the hands of all visitors to that region.

Dr. Friedmann's 'The Cowbirds' is a very careful study of the parasitic habits of these birds, and Mr. Eliot Howard's volume on 'Bird Behaviour' opens up a new line of study practically untouched.

We must not omit to mention the volume on the great German ornithologist, Alfred Brehm, which has been published by the Brehm Society in commemoration of the centenary of his birth, nor Dr. Stresmann's third part of his useful 'Handbuch der Zoologie—Aves.'

In addition to the works already mentioned in my last year's Address and not yet published, the following are announced :—Dr. C. B. Ticehurst is engaged on a work on the Birds of Suffolk, and Mr. W. E. Glegg has begun a similar volume on the Birds of Middlesex.

A new quarterly Journal of African Ornithology has been started by Capt. H. F. Stoneham and Mr. A. H. Paget Wikes under the name of the 'Bataleur,' and we wish the venture every success.

A large number of papers have been published on various ornithological problems, and of these we only have space to mention the following :—Messrs. Bangs and Peters on "Birds collected by Dr. Rock in Western Kansu and Eastern Tibet"; Dr. Grinnell on "A Distributional Summation of the Ornithology of Lower California"; Lincoln, "Bird Banding"; Linsdale on the "Variations in the Fox Sparrow with reference to their Natural History and Osteology"; Hachisuka, "Variations among Birds" (chiefly game-birds); Hellmayr, "A Contribution to the Ornithology of North-Eastern Brazil"; Nicholson, "Report on the 'British Birds' Census of Heronries"; and Bent on the "Life Histories of North American Shore-Birds."

Lord Rothschild exhibited the three known species of Orange Birds-of-Paradise of the genus *Xanthomelus*, viz.:—

♂ ♀, *Xanthomelus aureus* (Linn.). Arfak.

♂ ♀, *X. ardens* d'Alb. & Salvad. Foot-hills, Snow Mts.

♂, *X. bakeri* Chapin. Madang, Astrolabe Bay.

He remarked that of the recently described *Xanthomelus bakeri* there were 3 ♂ ♂ known (2 adult and 1 juv.). The one exhibited was not in complete adult plumage, the breast and rectrices of the type being entirely black.

Previous to Dr. Lorenz and Dr. Wollaston having obtained eight or ten complete examples of *X. ardens* it was only known from a flat mutilated Papuan skin, and so it was a great surprise to find no black on the throat. The new species goes to the opposite extreme in having the whole underside black *. The *X. aureus* were collected by Dr. Ernst Mayr, the *ardens* by Dr. Wollaston, and the *bakeri* by R. H. Beck.

Mr. David Bannerman sent the description of a dusky race of Stone-Partridge from the Ngaundere Plateau, Cameroon, which he proposed to name:—

Ptilopachus petrosus saturatior, subsp. nov.

Adult. Most nearly allied to *P. p. petrosus*, which last extends from Senegal to central Nigeria and perhaps to the Shari River, but distinguished from that race by its even darker appearance and by the almost complete lack of rufous on the upper parts. The normally white spots on the mantle, back, and coverts are reduced to mere freckles, the feathers at the base of hind neck have very dark brown middles (instead of chestnut middles), and have an unbroken whitish subterminal margin.

Iris red-brown; skin around eye red; feet carmine-red; bill brownish-red.

Distribution. The Ngaundere Plateau, Cameroon.

* In *aureus* also the rump, the upper tail-coverts, and all secondaries are yellow; in *ardens* the apical portions of the secondaries are black; while the rump, upper tail-coverts, and at least two-thirds of the secondaries in *bakeri* are black.

Type in the British Museum, ♂ adult, 50 miles north-east of Ngaundere, 3000 ft., 29 March, 1925. G. L. Bates Coll. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926.8.8.51.

Bill (exposed culmen) 15, wing 125, tail 75, tarsus 30 mm.

There is another form of this Stone-Bantam in the Lake Chad area (*P. p. butleri*) which is strikingly lighter than the form here described and has a great amount of rufous on the plumage. Mr. Bates and I have little doubt that the Stone-Bantam here described will prove to be a constant form—our experience of birds from the high regions of Cameroon has proved how distinct is the montane fauna of this area.

Mr. G. L. Bates made the following remarks on variation in the birds of a certain locality in the Mountains of Cameroon :—

The variations in colour and size which mark geographical races are not merely haphazard, but are connected in a way with the nature of the country.

Birds resident at high altitudes are, on the average, larger than the species found lower down, and those of well-watered tropical countries where there is abundant vegetation are more deeply-coloured than the same species inhabiting a dry country.

In the mountains of Cameroon I have found a circumscribed area where nearly all the resident birds are darker than those of the same species from localities not far off.

This remarkable circumstance calls for further attention, although I have already remarked on it at two previous meetings of the Club when describing some new subspecies from that district, viz. :—*Laniarius atroflavus craterum*, *Alseonax minimus okuensis*, *Urolais epichlora cinderella*, *Mesopicus johnstoni sordidatus*, and *Campethera wellsi* (now to be regarded as a race of *C. tullbergi*), all described from specimens—in some cases a series—obtained in the Oku District of the Cameroon Mountains.

All of these subspecies differ markedly in their general darker coloration from other races in some cases found in

localities not more than 20 or 25 miles away (*vide* Bull. B. O. C. xlvi. p. 87, and xlix. pp. 31–33), if yellow is present on the underside it is duller or nearly absent.

I visited the Oku District in February 1925, and have recently re-examined the collection I made during the week I was there, which are all in the British Museum, with the exception of a few at Tring and New York, and consist of forty specimens belonging to twenty-three species.

Nearly the whole collection, and not only the five races which I have described from there, differ in the same way, with the exception of (*a*) two Swallows, a small Weaver, and a Timaline bird, and (*b*) two species of which I have not seen other examples from localities in the Cameroon Mountains.

The four exceptional species in category (*a*) are either birds like Swallows or birds that are commoner lower down the mountains, but the seventeen which are darker in the Oku district are strictly mountain-birds, all but two or three confined to the dark wooded ravines near the mountain-tops.

The altitude of the Oku District I have recorded on my labels is too low and I am pretty sure it should be 7000 ft. or over. The district appears to be the highest and most extensive elevated area in the Banso Mountains—there seem to be more woods, and the rainfall is probably heavier than elsewhere in these mountains.

Miss C. M. Acland exhibited a Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus p. puffinus*) half in down and half in juvenile plumage, which was entirely white except for a few dark feathers on the back. The specimen had been given to her in the Faroes in the spring of 1928.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 1930, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. 7.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

Bird Room

PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCXXXVIII.

The three-hundred-and-thirty-third Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, January 8, 1930.

Chairman: Dr. P. R. Lowe.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; S. Boorman; P. R. E. Browne; H. P. O. Cleave; R. H. Deane; A. H. Evans; Major S. S. Flower; Rev. J. R. Hale; Colonel A. E. Hamerton; Dr. E. Hartert; R. E. Heath; R. Hope; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); Dr. N. S. Lucas; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; G. M. Mathews; J. L. Chaworth Musters; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; H. Stevens; Marquess of Tavistock; W. H. Thorpe; B. W. Tucker; Hugh Whistler; H. F. Witherby; C. R. Wood; C. G. M. de Worms.

Guests present:—N. G. Brownrigg; H. Evans; J. P. R. Hale; G. Heiss; Bertram Lloyd; G. C. Mercer; Capt. R. Murray; C. Orton.

Lord ROTHSCHILD made some remarks on the comparatively large number of Birds-of-Paradise known only from single examples or one or two skins—all, with one exception, native collected—and of which the exact habitat in New Guinea is unknown, despite the many collecting-expeditions in recent years.

The following are the species exhibited :—

1. *Paradisea maria* Reichen.
2. *Paradisea mixta* Rothsch.
3. *Lamprothorax wilhelminæ* A. B. Meyer.
4. *Loborhamphus nobilis* Rothsch.
5. *Loborhamphus ptilorhis* Sharpe.
6. *Ptiloris mantoui* (Oust.).
7. *Pseudastrapia lobata* Rothsch.
8. *Pseudastrapia ellioti* (Ward).
9. *Amblyornis flavifrons* Rothsch.
10. *Parotia duivenbodei* Rothsch.
11. *Falcinellus astrapioides* Rothsch.
12. *Cicinnurus goodfellowi* O.-Grant.

Of the twelve forms exhibited, *Loborhamphus ptilorhis*, *Pseudastrapia ellioti*, and *Cicinnurus goodfellowi* are the property of the British Museum, the other nine are in the Tring Museum. In addition to the twelve forms above-mentioned, there are four other birds known only from unique native skins, of which the habitat is unknown, viz. :—

1. *Paradisea duivenbodei* Menegaux, in the Paris Museum.
2. *Neoparadisea ruysi* Van Oort.
3. *Janthothorax bensbachi* Buttik. ; 2 and 3 in the Leyden Museum.
4. *Cicinnurus lyogyrus* Currie, in U.S. National Museum.

In connection with all these birds a great deal has been written, both by myself and others, suggesting that many

of them are hybrids. However, I now believe that only *Cicinnurus goodfellowi* and *Falcinellus astrapioides* show sufficiently clearly intermediate characters stamping them as hybrids. I exhibit with *Cicinnurus goodfellowi* skins of *Cicinnurus regius* and *Diphyllodes guilelmi tertii*, which I consider to be its parents, and with *Falcinellus astrapioides* I exhibit *Falcinellus fastosus* and *Astrapia nigra*, which are in my opinion undoubtedly its parents.

Cicinnurus goodfellowi shows the central tail-feathers intermediate between those of *Diphyllodes* and *Cicinnurus*, and the flanks have the violet of *D. guilelmi* much reduced, so that the underside is also intermediate.

Falcinellus astrapioides is apparently exactly intermediate between the *Astrapia* and *Falcinellus*, the rectrices are longer than in *Astrapia*, while they are much broader and less pointed than in *Falcinellus*, but narrower and more pointed than in *Astrapia*. The flank-plumes are much smaller and shorter and more reduced than in *Falcinellus* and the breast is intermediate between it and *Astrapia*. The bill was apparently considerably longer than in *Astrapia*, but less curved than in *Falcinellus*. I formerly thought *Paradisea maria* was a hybrid between *P. apoda augustæ-victoriæ* and *D. guilelmi*, but now I have changed my mind, as the mixture of ORANGE and WHITE could never produce the dull puce-crimson of the ornamental plumes of *P. mariæ*.

Paradisea duivenbodei, on the other hand, has orange-yellow plumes, but I do not think it is a hybrid; it certainly is not identical with *P. maria* as Stresemann has said, for the barbules of the outer half of the ornamental plumes are much closer together, and the whole plumes are orange-yellow *not* puce-crimson.

Paradisea mixta appears to be intermediate between a form of *P. apoda* and *P. minor*, but I do not like to say that it is a hybrid. Of *Pseudastrapia ellioti* there is a perfect example in the Dresden Museum. It might be argued that my *Ps. lobata* is a young ♂ of *Ps. ellioti*; but I do not think so, as the gloss on the tail-feathers of *ellioti* is purple, while in *lobata* it is steel-blue.

Of the birds exhibited the only one collected by a European is *Cicinnurus goodfellowi*, which was obtained by Mr. Walter Goodfellow on the Cyclops Mts. A second example is in the Berlin Museum, brought back from the mandated portion of New Guinea by Captain Erichsen. As I have an example of *Diphyllodes guilelmi-tertii* from the same territory, this would not militate against its being a hybrid.

Lord Rothschild also exhibited a ♂ of the melanistic mutant of the Common Pheasant. He said he only exhibited it as it was a complete melanic specimen, all the orange, chestnut, and brown markings having been replaced by blue or bluish green.

The Marquess of Tavistock exhibited two male hybrid parrakeets—Princess of Wales' (*Spathopterus alexandræ*) × Crimson-wing (*Ptistes erythropterus*) and Crimson-wing (*Ptistes erythropterus*) × Sula Island King (*Alisterus sulaensis*),—and made the following remarks :—

The subgenera *Ptistes* and *Alisterus* are closely related; *Ptistes* and *Spathopterus* are also related, but less nearly so. The three forms occur in the Australian or New Guinea regions.

The Princess of Wales × Crimson-wing hybrid shows a fairly even fusion of the characteristics of the parent species, but the rose-colour on the lower breast is deeper than that of the male parent, while there is a vinous-red patch on the under tail-coverts which does not occur either in *Spathopterus* or *Ptistes*.

The Crimson-wing × Sula Island King hybrid is perhaps the more interesting from a scientific standpoint. The King Parrakeets (*Alisterus*, formerly *Aprosmictus*) are a group containing several species and subspecies. They may be divided into two classes. Some, which may be assumed to be the more primitive, have a different plumage for the two sexes, and the males invariably, and the females occasionally, have a pale green bar or stripe running longitudinally down the centre of the dark green wing. In the other group,

apparently the more highly specialized, the sexes are alike and the wing is of a uniform dark colour—usually green. The Sula Island King is the smallest member of this latter group ; therefore the hybrid is a cross between a bird with a large red patch on the wing and one with no wing-markings at all. It might have been expected that the hybrid would show a mixture of red and dark green feathers, or, by complete fusion of the two colours, a brown wing-bar. As a matter of fact, with the second moult and the gaining of full adult plumage, a large pale greenish-yellow wing-bar is assumed. Hybridization thus appears to have revived a primitive character normally latent in the King Parrakeets of the Sula Island group. It is interesting to record that Gould's 'Birds of New Guinea' contains a plate of an Aprosmictine parrakeet which he named *Aprosmictus insignissimus*, but which is now regarded as a hybrid between the Australian King Parrakeet (*Aprosmictus* vel *Alisterus cyanopygius*) and the Crimson-wing. The Australian King Parrakeet has a pale green wing-stripe, and Gould's *A. insignissimus* shows a wing-bar of much the same size and colour as the Sula Island hybrid. At the same time as the living birds, a skin of a young female hybrid, *S. alexandræ* × *P. erythropterus* in first plumage, was exhibited, together with a skin of a male hybrid, *P. erythropterus* × *A. sulaensis* in second plumage, showing a red cap, but no wing-bar. In first plumage these Sula Island hybrids are somewhat variable, some being almost wholly green ; some having red thighs ; some a red abdomen, and some the abdomen and lower half of the breast red.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following :—

Doreenia, gen. nov.

Differs from *Nestor* Lesson in having the bill smooth, with no groove, thin, without a notch and not so curved. In *Nestor* the bill is deep through at the base and the point is well curved over. The wing-formula : the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th primaries equal and longest, the 1st a little shorter.

Type, *Nestor notabilis* Gould.

Anthus novæseelandiæ taupoensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Anthus novæseelandiæ reischeki* in being almost black above, with scarcely any lighter edges to the feathers; below white, heavily spotted on the chest and body with black. The wings are longer, 92–93 mm. against 87; tails longer, 72–75 against 70.

Locality. Lake Taupo, North Island, New Zealand.

Type in the British Museum. March 1910. Collected by Miss A. Churnside. Reg. No. 1910.7 7.203.

All other forms of this species are olive-brown above. The type-locality of *reischeki* is Hautura Island or Little Barrier Island, towards the north of North Island.

Cyanoramphus auriceps novana, subsp. nov.

Differs from *C. a. macleani* in beinglarger (wing 111 mm.). and in having a heavier bill, and the general coloration above and below darker.

Type. Birch Ridge, 3000 feet, Maungahaumia, north of North Island, New Zealand.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, Maungahaumia, North Island, New Zealand, 21 July, 1906. J. C. McLean. Reg. No. 1908.3.30.13.

Limnocinclus acuminatus juva, new name for *L. a. rufescens* Mathews, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. xxxvi. p. 82, 1916, not Middendorff, Sibir. Reise, vol. ii. pt. 2, p. 221, 1851.

Chairman's Annual Address.

Owing to the fact that the Chairman's Annual Address on the subject of Hybridization in Birds has necessarily suffered from the abstracted form in which it had to appear in the 'Bulletin' of January 9th, 1930, a fuller exposition of the subject will, we are informed, shortly appear in the pages of 'The Ibis.'

ERRATA.

Page 28, lines 8, 28, *for* "marriage-crowd" or plethogam *read* "mictogone."

Page 29, line 6, for *P. h. shawi* read *P. principalis shawi* and *P. p. tamirensis*.—ED.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear sent the following note on the measurements of *Tephrodornis gularis hainanus* :—"When describing, in the 'Bulletin' (vol. xlv. p. 105), *Tephrodornis gularis latouchei*, I gave by mistake the wrong measurements for the wings of the Hainan race, which should be as follows: 5 ♂ wings 115–119, 4 ♀ 113–119."

NOTICES.

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PURCHASED

Bird Room.

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCXXXIX.

The three-hundred-and-thirty-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, February 12, 1930.

Chairman: Dr. P. R. Lowe.

Members present:—Miss C. M. Acland; E. C. Stuart Baker; F. J. F. Barrington; Miss M. G. S. Best; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Sir Percy Z. Cox; A. H. Evans; A. Ezra; Miss J. M. Ferrier; Major S. S. Flower; Rev. J. R. Hale; B. G. Harrison; Dr. E. Hartert; R. E. Heath; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; Dr. G. Carmichael Low; C. W. Mackworth-Praed (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; G. M. Mathews; W. Norman May; J. L. Chaworth Musters; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. Stevens; Marquess of Tavistock; A. Landsborough Thomson; W. H. Thorpe; Hugh Whistler; H. F. Witherby; C. R. Wood; C. J. M. de Worms.

Guests present:—Miss D. Hordern; W. Williams.

Mr. H. Stevens gave the following account of a recent trip in Western China :—

It was my good fortune in November 1928 to join the Kelley-Roosevelts Expedition for the Field Museum to Szechuan, and, as I lost connection with the rest of our party, I did not return south through Yunnan with them, but remained six months longer in China, which enabled me to work the stretch of country traversed to better advantage. Our party was composed of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Kermit Roosevelt, Suydam Cutting, and Jack Young—a Chinese youth and an American citizen who acted as interpreter. My route for the most part did not coincide with that of my friends, as it had been arranged beforehand to split our caravan as soon as convenient, so that each of us could work to the best advantage in our respective spheres. As you may be aware, apart from other valuable specimens, the rare Giant Panda (a coveted prize) was obtained in Lolo country, south of Tachienlu, before the the main party had left to join the Indo-China contingent under Harold Coolidge.

My collections comprised some 500 mammals, 1150 birds, several hundred reptiles, amphibians, and fish, 5000 butterflies, numbers of flies and beetles, specimens of fleas, and a few clutches of eggs, in addition to a large representative collection of flowering plants and some shrubs.

We left Bhamo on 26 December, 1928, and in nine days reached Tengyueh, in Yunnan. Azizah, my Kashmiri servant, and I left here on 6 January, 1929, the rest of the party having started on the previous day. Crossing the Shweli-Salween Divide at 8000 ft. and afterwards the Salween-Mekong Divide at a similar altitude, I reached Yung-chang-fu in five days. After crossing the Mekong I took an easterly route through unsurveyed, broken country traversing the beds of several streams and across numerous minor watersheds at varying altitudes up to 8500 ft. The Gorge of the Yangpi Ho was crossed on a bamboo raft, while the mules swam ; thence to Ming-shih and across the source

of the Red river, descending to the Erh lake and reaching Tali-fu in nine days, where I caught up the rest of the party. Next morning we set out *viâ* Chien-chuan-chou for Li-Kiang, which place we reached in five days. On the 26 January the other members of the party left for the long trek to Tachienlu where I was to rejoin them, but as no collector had worked the country north of Muli, the land of the Lamas and a semi-independent principality, I went there and collected at eight different stations, including the slopes of the snow mountain Satseteo, and arrived at Tachienlu on 3 June, where I learnt that the rest of the party had reached Yunnan far in the south on 3 May.

Two separate camps were made to the west and south of Tachienlu, 12 and 15 miles distant respectively, and then I was joined by Huston Edgar, a missionary, who had on previous occasions travelled with Colonel Bailey, Mr. Ernest Wilson, Dr. Weigold, and others. On this journey we travelled 210 miles through the grass-lands of the Tibetan Borderland and returned by the Haitzeshan, a pass over a shoulder of the Zhara, a snow mountain, given as 25,584 ft. on some maps, but deleted on the most recent War Office maps.

One pyramid-like peak—the Minya Gonka, meaning merely snow mountain, and without a name—which I saw to perfection owing to perfect climatic conditions from several positions. The height of this mountain is unknown and will probably rival some of the other grand peaks of the Himalaya. Outline sketches of these mountain ranges were made when my camera failed me and have been handed to the Royal Geographical Society, who are going into the whole question of earlier records. I was determined to penetrate the unknown and locally-dreaded region of Yeutong and Mouping, the latter for its associations with the Abbé David.

Abbé David, by arrangement with the Franciscan Order and the Paris Museum, was able to devote his services wholly in the interests of Natural History. Apart from his earlier and later travels, according to the 'Encyclopædia Sinica,' he arrived in Chengtu in January 1869, explored

first the mountains lying to the north of that city and proceeded to Mupin, a Tibetan principality, eight days' journey north-west of Chengtu, where he remained until November 1869. Whether Abbé David actually resided in the town itself I was unable to find out, but at present there is apparently no R.C. Mission there and the only one I know, with the exception of Mongong in the north, is at Kochiai-ho-pa, in the extreme west, where I stayed for two nights.

On this journey the route chosen took us through the Gorge of the Tung Ho, and, after crossing the river, two stiff ascents were negotiated of 2500 and 3800 ft. respectively, the maximum altitude reached being 10,800 ft. We then proceeded through secluded valleys, moderately populated, until we joined the trail at the west of the water-shed used by the medicinal-root collectors, and on through forested defiles, over the hanging platforms of loose split branches, and tree-trunk bridges to the open alpine country, which runs up to 13,100 ft. altitude, and then down by a very bad track through the forest to the town of Mouping. I may remark that when one looks down upon, or even traverses, these valleys, one begins to wonder, at times, how it will ever be possible to get out again !

A further 55 miles next brought us to Yachou in four days. Thence by raft over the endless rapids of the Ya river to Kiating in two days. Two perilous days' motor rides to and from Chengtu, the ancient capital, were fitted in with business as a little diversion. A further trip of 85 miles was made to the sacred mountain Omeishan. Proceeding by junk on the Min river to Suifu, where I finished collecting and after a week's sojourn with a kindred spirit, Dr. David Graham, set off again by junk down the Yangtse to Chungking, and from there by the S.S. 'Wantung,' of Wanhsien notoriety, through the Gorges—Box canyon is more appropriate—to Ichang, eventually to Shanghai, which was reached on the 6 November, 1929 : in all, 1600 miles were covered on trail, well-nigh four-fifths of it on foot.

The villagers in the outlying country were friendly and hospitable, the same applies to the lamas, and necessity stifled

scruples in regard to food and accommodation. On the rivers I had an anxious time getting my collections past the numerous tax stations. Once Shanghai was reached, arrangements for the clearance of my innumerable packages had been so perfected by my friends that there was no difficulty.

Wherever foreign missions were established I received a warm welcome. At Chengtu I met a keen ornithologist in Mrs. Dye, the wife of my kind host, Prof. Dye of the Union University. She it was who pointed out to me the peregrine which annually comes to their clock-tower. I was able to show her that dainty Titmouse (*Parus venustulus*), a new record to her list. To the Andrews of Li-Kiang and the Cunninghams of Tachienlu I am especially indebted. The latter friends brought my collections with them to Kiating. On this journey their raft struck a partially submerged rock, but fortunately nothing of our effects in importance suffered, due to precautions taken beforehand to have our boxes sewn up in hides.

A few remarks on the birds:—Wily cranes of at least three species (chiefly *nigricollis*), in flocks varying from a dozen to roughly a hundred, were frequently seen in the cultivated, well-watered valleys in Yunnan—the last I saw of them was on the Yungning plain,—but, before leaving Kiating on the 11 October, 1929, two dozen passed heading down the river, and, lower down on the 15th, I counted 66 followed by 32 others. Crowds of duck were to be seen in the swampy marshes around Chien-chouan-chou, and on coming down the Yangtse vast flocks, daily and sometimes hourly, were passed. Above and below Shazee I identified small groups of the Mandarin Ducks. The Paddy bird (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*) were seen here and there in the swampy ground at Hadja Tungoo (13,000 ft.). Rock-pigeons appeared south of Likiang and at Yungning, and nest in the towers and abandoned stone houses of the Tibetan Borderland, as well as in the crags of several prominent bluffs. The Snow-pigeon have a predilection for the ground in the vicinity of numerous hot sulphur springs around Tachienlu, but occurred also at many other localities, as

far south as Likiang in February. The purple wood-pigeon (*Columba pulchricollis*) in early October was seen on Omeishan.

The Dove (*Œnopopelia tranquebarica*) was first obtained at the first day's camp north of Wushi on the 26th of May, at 13,550 feet, and again many times later in similar and lower altitudes. A few pairs of Ibis-bill occurred on the rivers in open country north of Tachienlu. I also came upon two breeding-grounds of the eastern redshank in extensive swamps south of Pamei and north of Kwan-chiai, where at this latter locality on 28 July I shot another interesting *Tringa*. *Charadrius placidus* appeared on the gravelly reaches isolated in the bed of a river, which I traversed at low water, to the east of the Mekong in Yunnan on 14 January, where quite likely they breed. A pair of woodcock were seen at Kulu on 16 April in a forest-glade at 12,500 feet. Farther north of Kulu I did not meet with the solitary snipe, but odd birds occurred throughout the country north of Likiang on suitable ground—I put up five, at intervals, in the bed of a torrent on the slopes of the Likiang Range on 15 February. The conifer-forests held all such genera as we associate with similar vegetation in our own country:—crested tits, creepers, nuthatches, a bullfinch, a crossbill, and a goldcrest, while the last-named was not met with again after Kulu. *Parus palustris dejeani* seemed to be ever with me beyond Likiang. *Parus davidi* was only obtained to the west of the watershed *en route* to Mouping, in forest. Numerous species of rose-finch and two species of grosbeak were collected. On 19 April I counted a flock of 50 at least—*Perissospiza icterioides*, and it was a thrilling sight to see these fine yellow and black grosbeaks moving amongst the tops of the pines, uttering plaintive call-notes.

I did not meet with *Eophona* until Suifu was reached, but the large party out of which a number were obtained may possibly have been cold-weather migrants from higher ground. Several species of warbler (*Phylloscopus*) were widely distributed. That remarkable parraquet (*Psittacula*

derbyana), first seen as a cage-bird in Yungchang-fu, was also widely distributed in the pine-forests and feeds on the seeds of the cones. *Muscicapa hodgsonii* occurred in wooded country as far north as I penetrated, but sparingly. The fantail flycatcher (*Rhipidura albicollis*) was met in the warm deep valleys of south Szechwan.

At Yungchang-fu several hoopoes frequented the enclosure of the caravanserai, one of which was curtseying on the wall, uttering its twice repeated call-note, which I had long desired to hear; and it was only 10 January. Owing to the height of the trees there was great difficulty in getting woodpeckers. The three-toed woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus funebris*) was met with on many occasions in the pine-forests north of Likiang. The green and large pied woodpeckers were plentiful in open, sparsely wooded country south-west of Tachienlu. A pair of the large black woodpecker was seen only once in Yeutong, at 10,000 feet, but the handsome Woodpecker (*Dryocopus forresti*), described by Lord Rothschild, was obtained in heavy fir-forest in the Litang valley, Szechwan, more than 200 miles to the east of the Mekong, the type-locality.

The distribution of *Passer montanus* and *Passer cinnamomeus*, two species of Crow-tit (*Suthora*), Scimitar-Babbler (*Pomatorhinus*), Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus* and *C. pallasii*), and the various laughing-thrushes was of particular interest, and so was the arrival of the summer migrants, including the emerald (*Chalcites maculatus*) and other cuckoos at Muli. I obtained *Cuculus canorus* with an oviduct egg on 1 July at 13,500 feet on the Ya-ja-jen pass, where I saw two others at the same time. I met with it again on other occasions, a thousand feet higher on the Tibetan Borderland, where its call seemed remarkably appropriate. Larks were in song on the Likiang plain during the lengthy periods of sunshine in February, and equally so on the grass-lands in July. An *Acrocephalus* occurred at Wuchi. The wren (*Troglodytes*) was only sparingly distributed north of Likiang; the last one seen was at a place four days' journey south of Tachienlu. That tiny gem *Abrornis albogularis fulvi-*

facies was obtained for the first time at Suifu. The raven was met with on the first occasion near An-yang-pa on 15 July, but a dozen or so frequented our camp north of Hlagong monastery farther north. The largest flock of choughs, at least 300 in number, was observed on 20 February at the foot of the Likiang Range. Pairs of magpies were in evidence in open country wherever there was a house, and above the Yangpi Gorge on 17 January I saw a flock of 50. At Baurong, the usual solitary magpie's nest contained only one nestling—an indication that stress of circumstances would not allow more to survive. On 25 July at Tailing, on the plain, a crowd of jackdaws (*Colœus dauuricus*), some 400 in number, were engaged in feeding on a *tipula*, or crane-fly. Youngsters, both pied and entirely black, were vociferously demanding attention. This species was first met at the village of Ta-li-shao, to the west of the Mekong, on 10 January. Nutcrackers occurred only at rare intervals throughout the country traversed, and were more plentiful on the Yangtse Big Bend. The first pair of *Corvus torquatus* seen—a certain sign that we were nearing the plains—was on 17 September, north of Renja-ba, after leaving the town of Mouping. Numbers of the eastern rook were observed two days later near Yachou. *Garrulus* was met with only once in a valley at 11,000 feet, where mixed oak and rhododendron predominated, four days' journey to the south-west of Tachienlu, but odd birds were to be seen in cages from the town of Mouping southwards. The alpine chough was only seen on the Ya-ja-jen, south of Tachienlu, on a moraine at 14,500 feet, in a party of twenty or thereabouts.

About a score of griffon vultures had a breeding-site on a rocky eminence about a mile from our camp, 19–23 July, and on 27 July three adult lammergeyers whirled past, with the swish of wings so near as to be audible to us on the march. I saw this magnificent bird, however, as far south as the Likiang Range, at Kulu where it was clumsily beating for picas (*Ochotona*), and daily at Tachienlu, while to the south I obtained one at Walee. A

large dark eagle, seen south of Tali-fu on 19 January, beating the hills near at hand to my trail, and to judge by its actions and size, must have been *chrysaëtus*. Buzzards were numerous between Tali-fu and Likiang, but the majority evidently go farther north to breed. *Haliaëtus leucoryphus*, an adult, was seen one-and-a-half days' march north of Tongolo, at 12,600 feet on 18 July, following the course of one of the numerous rivers. The kite (*Milvus lineatus*) was widely spread—even the poorest hamlet would receive the attentions of an odd bird, if only for a brief survey. A clutch of four eggs of the dark-plumaged kestrel was obtained from a hole on a perpendicular crag at Baurong, and a similar breeding-site was noticed *en route* in the Litang valley. At Tengyueh, on 3 January, a congregation of about a dozen kestrels, presumably of the cold-weather migrant, were soaring over the grave-studded hills.

Phasianus had a wide distribution both in Yunnan and Szechwan. I first obtained *Chrysolophus amherstiæ* at Muli, and what delight to first see this glorious bird in its natural haunts! *Crossoptilon* was widely spread north of Kulu; many lateral valleys contained a small party. On one occasion I saw at least 50 adults with their young in an extensively wooded valley, 3½ days' journey north of Tachienlu. Several were ignominiously hung up as scare-crows in fields under scanty cultivation at Wushi, and at this place I obtained chicks in the middle of May. On the first occasion I heard the bark of this pheasant, during a lonely trudge through deep snow in a conifer forest—I could scarcely get it out of my head that this sound must emanate from wolves. *Tetrastes*, the hazel-hen, was met with at my first camp north of Kulu, a considerable distance south from where it has previously been recorded. At Kwan-chiai, in the extreme north of my travels, both broods of three-quarter-grown young and chicks were seen at 13,500 feet, on 30 July. Blood pheasants of at least two forms were obtained. A cock monal (*Lophophorus l'huysii*) nose-dived through the mist on 27 June above Walee, 15 miles south of Tachienlu, where I saw another, a single female, but

failed to meet with others. I am not aware that jungle-fowl have been reported so far north in Yunnan, yet I plainly saw a cock enter some scrub-growth when traversing the watershed south of the Erh lake at 7500 feet, on 19 January, south of Hsia-kuan, at a point some 20 miles south of the city of Tali-fu. *Perdix hodgsoniæ*, evidently *sifanica*, was obtained north of Tongolo, amonst the villagers' barley crops. A party of *Lerwa* was seen at 15,000 feet below the snow-covered slopes of a mountain to the west of the Ya-ja-jen pass on 30 June. *Larus brunneicephalus* was observed in some numbers amongst the rice-fields north of Tali-fu, while the small gull seen at Chien-chuan-chou in Yunnan, on 23 January, must have been *Larus gelastes*.

My work, in so far as the birds are concerned, can only be regarded as supplementary to the extensive collections which have been already made in Yunnan and Szechwan, and will fill in in a gap where no collecting had been previously done. I was moving away from the richer avifauna in the south, and not far enough north to meet with the peculiar Kansu forms.

Mr. Hugh Whistler exhibited two chicks in down of the dark hybrid or mutant Pheasant, which has lately come to notice in many parts of England. Mr. Whistler pointed out that the chicks exhibit all the dark pigmentation of the adults, and are very different from the normal Pheasant chick, of which a specimen was also shown for comparison. A white throat-patch and white wing-tips are curiously persistent in the chicks of the dark form. The specimens have been deposited in the British Museum.

Mr. Gregory Mathews sent the following note :—

Dr. Robert C. Murphy in the American Museum Novitiates, no. 276, 8 Sept., 1927, identifies a Shearwater collected by Mr. R. H. Beck on the Melapav Island, New Hebrides, on 14 Sept., 1926, as *Puffinus lherminieri nugax* Mathews, Birds of Austral. 1912, vol. ii. p. 72, which name was based on Solander's MSS. description of a bird captured at sea off Townsville, Queensland.

As the name *nugax* is preoccupied, I propose the name *gunax* for the bird described by Murphy on p. 12 of the American Mus. Nov. as quoted above.

This will therefore stand as

Puffinus lherminieri gunax, nom. nov.

Type, no. 215393, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., female.

In no. 322, p. 4, of the same publication, four more specimens were taken on the same island.

Distr.—Melapav (Meralav or Star Peak) Islet, Bank Group, New Hebrides (breeding?). Wandering in the non-breeding season to the Queensland coast.

Col. R. Meinertzhagen sent the following description :—

Argya caudatus theresæ, subsp. nov.

Differs from *A. c. huttoni* in having darker fringes to the feathers of the crown and nape, and in being more heavily streaked below, especially on the lower throat.

Cat. *Type*, ad. ♂, Baghdad, 28.xii.1922, Meinertzhagen Coll.

Material examined : 11 specimens from Iraq and 2 from Shiraz. A large series of *A. c. huttoni* examined from Seistan, Kandahar, Baluchistan, and Sind.

Distr.—Iraq and south-west Persia.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear sent the following description :—

Timelia pileata dictator, subsp. nov.

Similar to *T. pileata intermedia*, but paler both above and below, especially the rufous of the belly.

Type in the British Museum, ♂, Dran, S. Annam, 11 May, 1918. Collected by C. Boden Kloss. Reg. No. 1919. 12. 20. 282.

Distr. — Seventeen specimens examined from Cochin China, Saigon, and Tay Ninh ; S. Annam, Dran, Djiring ; Central Annam, Thua-Lun ; Laos, Napé.

Note.—A bird from Nong-Het, Laos, appears to be intermediate, and four specimens from Tonkin and two from Kwangsi, S. China, are *T. p. intermedia*.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 1930, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m. Members are reminded that this Dinner is held conjointly with the Annual Dinner of the B. O. U., and that they are allowed to bring Lady Guests.

The Meeting will be devoted to an exhibition of two films of bird-life.

Members of the B. O. C. intending to dine should inform the Hon. Secretary, C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. 7, and not the Secretary of the Union. This notice is necessary in order that the seating may be arranged beforehand, and failure to let the Secretary know may result in no seat being available.

The Subscription for 1929–30—£1 1s.—became due on October 1 last. The Treasurer hopes that those who do not pay by banker's order, or who have not already paid, will send him this without further notice.

PURCHASED

Bird Room
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

No. CCCXL.

The three-hundred-and-thirty-fifth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, March 12, 1930, in conjunction with the Annual Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union.

Mr. W. L. Sclater, the President of the B. O. U., took the Chair during the Dinner, and Dr. P. R. Lowe during the subsequent proceedings.

Members of the B. O. C. present :—Miss C. M. Acland ; E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington ; Miss M. G. S. Best ; S. Boorman ; H. B. Booth ; A. W. Boyd ; Sir J. Rose Bradford ; A. L. Butler ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; Col. Stephenson R. Clarke ; H. P. O. Cleave ; Capt H. L. Cochrane, R.N. ; Sir Percy Z. Cox ; A. B. Duncan ; W. B. Duncan ; A. Ezra ; Miss J. M. Ferrier ; K. Fisher ; W. E. Glegg ; Rev. J. R. Hale ; Col. A. E. Hamerton ; B. G. Harrison ; Dr. J. M. Harrison ; R. E. Heath ; Mrs. Hodgkin ; R. E. Hope ; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*) ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; Dr. P. R. Lowe (*Chairman*) ; N. S. Lucas ; C. W. Mackworth-

Praed (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); G. M. Mathews; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; B. B. Osmaston; W. Shore-Baily; W. L. Sclater; Major A. G. L. Sladen; Marquess of Tavistock; A. Landsborough Thomson; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; B. W. Tucker; Miss E. L. Turner; H. Whistler; H. F. Witherby; C. R. Wood; C. J. M. de Worms.

Members of the B. O. U.:—C. E. Baker; Miss P. Barclay-Smith; Mrs. M. D. Brindley; Mrs. V. Cranfield; K. J. Acton Davis; H. J. S. Douglas; F. H. Edmonson; A. K. Gibbon; Miss E. M Godman; Miss A. Hibbert-Ware; W. E. Higham; Miss A. Hordern; Mrs. H. M. Rait-Kerr; Miss E. M. Knobel; Miss E. Leach; Mrs. M. L. Lemon; T. H. McKittrick; Mrs. A. H. Murton; Dr. W. H. Osgood; Lt.-Col. A. Lloyd Owen; Miss F. Pitt; Dr. Erwin Streseman; F. R. P. Stringer; Dr. Ian Thomson; Dr. G. M. Vevers; J. P. Watson; Capt. L. R. Waud; Capt. W. B. I. Webber; T. Wells.

Guests present:—Capt. F. E. Dyke Acland; Miss L. Assheton; Mrs. D. A. Bannerman; Mrs. Stuart Baker; M. Bennett; J. Bevan; Mrs. B. B. Bird; Miss Bird; Dr. A. Burdet; Mrs. Burdet; Miss L. Charteris; Mrs. Stephenson Clarke; R. S. Clarke; Miss R. S. Clay; Lady Cox; T. T. Davies; Miss C. Fryers; Mrs. Glegg; Miss C. E. Godman; Brig.-Gen. Roland Haig; Mrs. R. Haig-Thomas; J. P. R. Hale; A. H. Harkness; E. Harkness; Mrs. Higham; F. Lemon; Mrs. Percy Lowe; Mrs. Lucas; Mrs. Mackworth-Praed; Capt. K. Murray; F. Pike; Miss Rhodes; L. Sargent; Mrs. W. L. Sclater; Mrs. Shore-Baily; M. H. Simonds; Mrs. A. G. L. Sladen; Miss B. Solly; Miss Stainer; Mrs. C. E. Winifred Stringer; Mrs. Ian Thomson; Mrs. Landsborough; Mrs. Tucker; Miss Twist; J. Vincent; R. H. Wethered; Mrs. H. F. Witherby; T. Withers; M. Webber; Mrs. C. R. Wood; Miss D. M. Wynne; and 5 others.

The evening was devoted to an exhibition of cinematograph films of bird-life, but before these were put on the screen Mr. Ian Thomson showed a very fine series of slides of Montagu's Harrier taken in Norfolk, and he is to be congratulated on his good fortune in securing a picture of the male at the nest along with the female.

Mr. W. E. Higham then exhibited a film showing the life-history of Montagu's Harrier and some other birds, such as the Bearded Reedling, Red-backed Shrike, etc. His film was exceptionally clear, and is certainly one of the best we have seen of birds photographed in this country.

Dr. A. Burdet, of Holland, followed with a most interesting series of pictures, principally of Dutch birds, including Ruffs fighting, Black-tailed Godwit at nest, Great Crested Grebe and young, Little Bittern and young, Heron, young Cuckoo fed by Reed-Warblers, Black Woodpecker, Spoonbill, and Long- and Short-eared Owls at nest. He also showed a beautiful picture taken in Switzerland of a Honey-Buzzard at its nest. This film was admirable throughout, and members are very much indebted to Dr. Burdet for the privilege of seeing such a wonderful series of pictures.

Mr. David Bannerman sent the following note on the races of *Neotis cafra* and described a new subspecies :—

In working through the Bustards known as Stanley's and Denham's for the second volume of my book, it became obvious that we must in future recognize three forms instead of the two which are listed on p. 113 of the 'Systema Avium Ethiopicarum,' and in consequence the range as there set out needs re-defining :—

Neotis cafra cafra (Licht.).

Stanley's Bustard, the type-locality of which is now fixed as King William's Town district, Cape Province, is evidently restricted in its range to South Africa, occurring from the Cape Province to the high veldt of the Transvaal. This Bustard is distinguished by its small size when compared

with the North or East African birds (wings of two apparent females 440 and 480 mm., bill 61–63 mm. respectively), rather paler (sandier-coloured) upper parts, but the right rufous hind-neck even deeper in colour than in East African examples (2 examples examined).

NEOTIS CAFRA DENHAMI (Childr.).

Denham's Bustard, originally described from the neighbourhood of Lake Chad, ranges across the whole of Northern Africa from Fouta Jalon and Sierra Leone through the Gold Coast, Nigeria, and Lake Chad, eastwards through Darfur and Kordofan, north to Khartoum, and east to Abyssinia. (Probably it is this race which has been recorded from the Ubangi region, but I have not seen a specimen.) Denham's Bustard is distinguished from the typical species by its larger size (wing in males 580–640, females 500–535 mm.) and longer bill (72–89 mm.), darker upper parts, but much paler rufous hind-neck. When compared with East African examples, in addition to the paler hind-neck, it appears, in the specimens available for comparison, to have the lores whitish instead of black, and to have the superciliaries less developed (9 examples examined).

The third race remains without a name, and I propose to name it in honoured memory of our much-beloved and distinguished fellow-member, the late Sir Frederick Jackson, who did so much to further our knowledge of East African ornithology during and since his Governorship of Uganda.

Neotis cafra jacksoni, subsp. nov.

Jackson's Bustard is a clearly-defined race which occurs in Kenya Colony, Uganda, and the inland districts of Tanganyika Territory and Rhodesia as far south as Lake Bangweolo, also apparently from Mossamedes, Angola, whence there are two skins in the Tring Museum. Jackson's Bustard may be distinguished from *N. cafra cafra* by its larger size (wing in males 525–600, females 475–560 mm.) and darker coloration, particularly of the upper parts; the bright rufous hind-neck is, however, not so deep rufous as in

Cape specimens. From *N. cafra denhami* it is distinguished by having the rufous hind-neck considerably darker, black lores instead of whitish, and a longer superciliary streak. In the rest of the colouring the East African race resembles *N. c. denhami* as it does approximately in size, though averaging slightly smaller (10 examples examined).

Type in the British Museum: ♂ adult, Amala River, Kenya Colony. Collectors W. P. Lowe and J. P. Cozens, Oct. 16, 1912. Reg. No. 1916.12.1.2.

Dr. Hartert and Mr. Goodson have been good enough to examine additional material in Lord Rothschild's Museum—one skin of *N. cafra cafra,* five of *N. c. denhami*, seven of *N. c. jacksoni*—and confirm that three races are recognizable.

In all races of *N. cafra* the females may be recognized by the freckling on the breast; this is also apparent in immature birds, but whether young males have freckled breasts like the females I have been unable to determine for lack of specimens. Certain examples in the British Museum collection have undoubtedly had the sex wrongly determined by the collector, which has led to confusion between the sexes. The three races may be picked out with ease by the depth of rufous on the hind-neck, the other characters given being subsidiary.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following :—

Broderipornis, new generic name for *Broderipus* Bonaparte (1854), not *Broderipia* J. E. Gray (1847). Type *Oriolus chinensis* Linné.

Dr. E. Stresemann sent the following description :—

Ninox novæseelandiæ remigialis, subsp. nov.

Most nearly allied to *N. n. ocellata* (Bp.) = *mixta* Math., especially to specimens from Letti, Moa, and Romah Islands, but distinguished by having the barring of the primaries and secondaries much less pronounced; on the latter the barring is reduced to white spots on the basal half of the feathers (inner web only). Rectrices with rather faint

whitish cross-bars on the inner web. Colour of back earthy-brown, less pronounced than in nearly all specimens from Letti etc. Reddish-brown stripes of breast not contracted or broadened, as is the case in various races of *N. ocellata*. Size as in *ocellata* from Letti etc.

Type in the British Museum, ♀, changing from juvenile to first year's plumage, Kei Islands, July 1909, W. Stalker leg. No. 73. Reg. No. 1910.12.28.96. Wing 221, tail 130 mm. Iris light yellow.

One specimen only examined.

No species of *Ninox* had hitherto been recorded from the Kei Islands.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 1930, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

A Lecture will be given by Mr. V. C. Wynne Edwards on "An Ecological Study of Birds in Devon."

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. 7.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

Bird Room.

LIBRARY OF THE PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

BRITISH MUSEUM

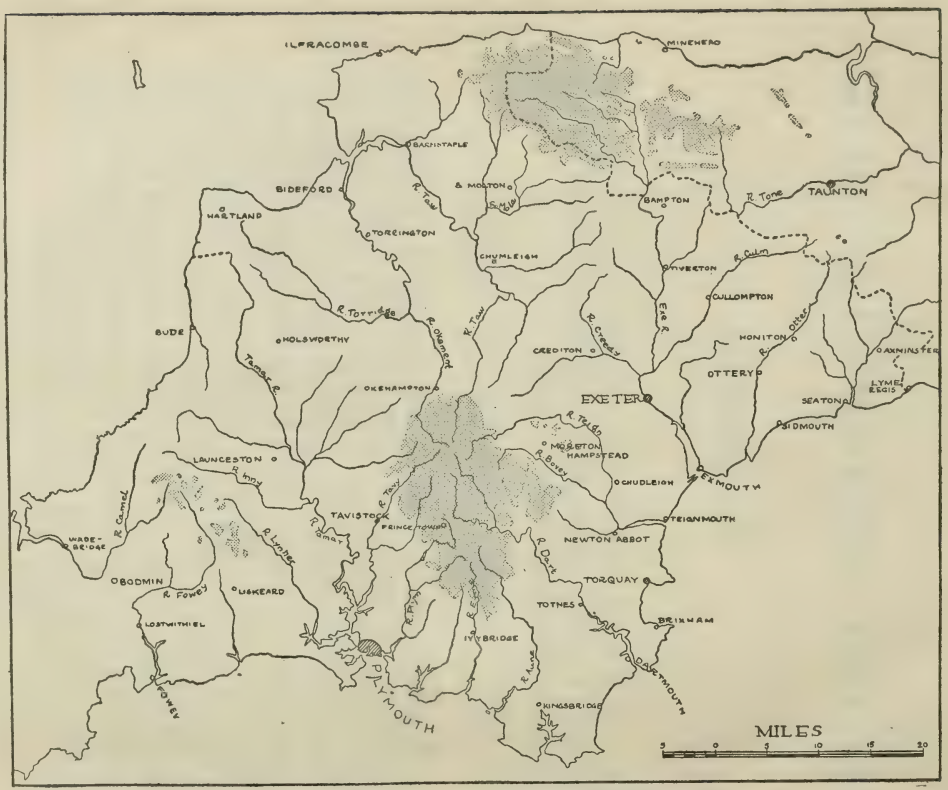
No. CCCXLI.

The three-hundred-and-thirty-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, April 9, 1930.

Chairman: Major S. S. Flower.

Members present:—Miss C. M. Acland; D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; Miss M. G. S. Best; S. Boorman; A. L. Butler; Sir Percy Z. Cox; A. H. Evans; Miss J. M. Ferrier; Col. A. E. Hamerton; B. G. Harrison; T. H. Harrisson; Dr. E. Hartert; R. E. Heath; R. Hope; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); C. W. Mackworth-Praed (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; P. Manson Bahr; G. M. Mathews; Mrs. D. Nicholls; C. Oldham; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; H. Stevens; Marquess of Tavistock; W. H. Thorpe; Capt. Alastair Urquhart; H. Whistler; H. F. Witherby; C. R. Wood.

Guests:—V. C. Wynne Edwards; H. S. Flower; F. A. Hampton; P. A. D. Hollom; L. Jopling; T. H. McKittrick; A. J. McNair; W. H. Osgood; J. P. Watson.



Map of Devon and part of Cornwall dealt with in Mr. Wynne Edwards's paper.
The shaded portions represent the moorland areas.

Mr. V. C. Wynne Edwards read a paper, illustrated by lantern-slides, entitled "Ecological Studies of Birds in Devon," of which the following is a summary prepared by him:—

The Devon Bird-watching and Preservation Society, which was started in 1928, has made one of its chief aims the study of the local distribution of birds. In the spring of 1929, a census of Buzzards was taken in ten different areas in the county, and although the total area of 370 sq. miles investigated is only one-seventh of the whole county, certain useful results were obtained. Devon is particularly well suited to ecological investigations of this kind, because the different types of country are few in number and clearly distinguished, each with a characteristic fauna. Lying like islands are the undulating moorland areas of Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor in Cornwall, and Exmoor, essentially similar in their barrenness, absence of trees, and precipices. There are about 200 sq. miles in Dartmoor lying above 1000 ft. Each moorland area is surrounded by a narrow broken fringe of oak forest, most clearly developed on the steep sides of the river valleys, where they leave the moor and often extended almost to the sea by plantations. This constitutes the second main division of habitats. The third is the agricultural zone which lies between the forest and the sea, occupying the greater part of the county and broken into ridges and low hills by the river valleys. The fourth is the coast, rock-bound throughout most of its length and indented by numerous estuaries.

The Buzzard was found to be very numerous on the coast, nesting invariably in cliffs. Between Plymouth Sound and The Start, a distance of 32 miles, there were twenty-two pairs, and on the north coast between the Cornish boundary and Westward Ho! (46 miles) there were about twenty-five pairs. In places the nests were less than a mile apart, though no case was found of two within half a mile. East of The Start the Buzzard is found as far as Berry Head, near Brixham, but not farther along the coast, where the Devonian rocks are replaced by Permian and Triassic sandstones. It would thus appear that the nature of the rocks is

a direct limiting factor in the distribution of the Buzzard. Both the Raven and Peregrine, however, are found on the Permian as well as on the Devonian cliffs, so that they are not influenced by this factor to the same extent.

Inland, the Buzzard is most numerous in the forest zone, being almost absent from agricultural areas between the rivers. In the Tamar valley and upper Torridge watershed it reaches a density of one pair to about 3 sq. miles. It is absent from the moor and from the neighbourhood of towns such as Plymopth, Torquay (none in 38 sq. miles), and Exeter. It never nests in cliffs inland, although the Raven finds a number of suitable places. An estimate has been made of the total population of the county, which probably lies between 900 and 1200 birds, or about 450 breeding pairs. No other bird of prey is so frequently seen as the Buzzard. The inland distribution appears to depend on the presence of steep slopes which provide wind-currents, and on the abundance of rabbits, which are its chief food in Devon.

An account of the distribution of starling-roosts in Devon and East Cornwall, which has also been investigated, has been published elsewhere ('British Birds,' vol. xxiii., Nov.–Dec. 1929, p. 137.

During the 'British Birds' census of heronries in 1929, information was obtained of the factors influencing the distribution of this species in Devon. On the north and south coasts of Devon and Cornwall there are fifteen or sixteen estuaries, and on all but two there is a heronry. These two are the Teign and Plym, which belongs to the Lynher–Tamar estuary system, on which there are already two heronries. Nearly 70 per cent. of the heron population is found in these estuarine colonies, which are, however, usually small, averaging 11–12 nests. This may be due to the disconnected nature of the feeding-grounds, the estuaries themselves. Principally on the mud-banks in the upper reaches an abundance of food is to be found. These banks are exposed by the tide for nine hours at a time and covered for only four in some cases, and consequently the heronry is almost invariably situated in the upper half of the estuary.

A second class of heronries is found on the fringes of the moor near the 1000 ft. contour. Here there are numerous streams providing trout and eels, and pools where frogs abound. Lumps of frog-spawn form part of the diet of the young birds. There are four heronries of this type. Lastly, there are three heronries which do not conform to these types, all situated in country rather different from the rest of the county. The largest is at Killerton on the Culm, another is on the Upper Torridge, and the third on the Otter in East Devon.

As in the case of the Buzzard, the food-supply is a factor of great importance in regulating the distribuiion of heronries. In this case it appears to predominate over other factors. The size of the estuarine heronries does not appear to be correlated closely with the extent of the mud-flats.

On the conclusion of the paper, the Chairman thanked Mr. Edwards for his interesting and instructive remarks, which had been much appreciated by all present.

Lord Rothschild exhibited five slides of the birds and one of eleven unfertile eggs of his Sarus Cranes, *Grus antigone* Linn., at Tring, and made the following remarks :—

The female Crane was presented to my late brother by Lord Newton in 1915, and had been in England several years, so her age must be at least twenty years. The male I purchased in 1924, when about 18–20 months old, and they began to pair in 1925. The nest was begun on 17 July, the first egg laid on 20 July, the second on 22 July. The female at once began to incubate, and the eggs, which were taken away on 8 Sept., proved unfertile. A second clutch of two was completed on 27 Sept., but were also unfertile. The same happened in 1926, both clutches being again unfertile, and it was evident the male was not yet adult. In 1927 several eggs were laid, but were mostly eaten by the hen bird, except the last two, which were incubated, but proved as before to be unfertile. In 1928 a number of eggs were again produced and several

eaten ; but the last two were incubated, and one showed signs of fertility when taken away after six weeks.

In 1929 a small nest was made and an egg laid on 2 July, which the male at once devoured ; the second egg was laid on 5 July, which was also eaten by the male bird.

On 10 July the nest was much enlarged, and on the 12th an egg was laid, which was not destroyed ; and two days later a second was deposited. On 15 July the hen began to sit, and continued to sit alternately with the male, the latter becoming very savage.

On 19 August the first young one was hatched, and the second on the 20th. On the 21st both young birds left the nest and walked about the enclosure, and on 29 August were observed for the first time to pick up insects and worms for themselves. By 30 November they were full-feathered, and on 19 December started to fly. Between 30 January and 24 February the first plumage began to be moulted, and new feathers are still growing.

The only record I can find of the breeding and rearing of the Sarus Crane in captivity is that of the Moghul Emperor Jehangir (1605–1627 A.D.) (*see* Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. vol. xxxii. pp. 57–60, 1927). Several times in the last 20–40 years young Sarus Cranes have been hatched, but not reared, and no published record exists so far as I am aware.

The Marquess of Tavistock remarked that Sarus Cranes had bred at least once at Woburn, but no record had been published of the fact.

Lord Rothschild further exhibited the three races of *Turdus philomelos*, and made the following remarks :—

The idea of exhibiting the three races of our Song-Thrush was started by the reception at Tring of a very characteristic skin of the nominotypical *Turdus philomelos philomelos*, collected by Dr. Stein at Franfort on the Oder. *Turdus philomelos philomelos* Brehm is characterised by its grey-brown upper surface and very white under surface, only slightly washed with creamy buff on the throat and upper breast ; the black spots are small, and the lower flanks

almost white, only streaked sparsely with olive. The nominotypical form inhabits most of the continent of Europe as a breeding bird ; its breeding range extending to the Caucasus and Lake Baikal.

Turdus philomelos clarkei Hart. is the British form of the Song-Thrush, and has a rufous-brown upper surface with only the abdomen creamy white, the throat, chest, and flanks bright buff, the latter more heavily streaked with olive ; the black spots are larger. The breeding race of the mainland of Great Britain and Ireland, but *T. ph. philomelos* occurs sparingly on migration.

Turdus philomelos hebridensis Eagle Clarke is the darkest and most striking race, it has the upper surface mummy-brown, the abdomen white, throat and upper breast paler buff ; flanks paler olive streaked with darker olive ; black spots much larger and more extended.

T. ph. hebridensis breeds on the Outer Hebrides. (*Type* from Island of Barra.)

Messrs. F. N. Chasen and C. Boden Kloss communicated the following :—

The generic name *Nitidula* Jerdon & Blyth, 1861, with type *Nitidula campbelli* of the same authors (=*Nemura hodgsoni* Moore) is preoccupied by *Nitidula* Fabr., 1775 (Coleoptera, *fide* Agassiz). No later name is available, so the genus may be known as

Briania, nom. nov.

The genus is at present monotypic, and its forms are :—

Briania hodgsoni hodgsoni (Moore).

Nepal to Assam, above 3000 feet.

Briania hodgsoni sondaica (Rob. & Kloss).

Mountains of Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, and Borneo.

Mr. C. Boden Kloss sent the following communication :—

In vol. iii. of the 'Fauna of British India, Birds' (1926, p. 370), Mr. Stuart Baker has applied to the most

north-western representatives of the Ruby-cheek, *Chalcoparia singalensis* (Gm.), which he considers to be distinct from the rest of the species, the name *Certhia lepida* Latham (Ind. Orn. i. 1790, p. 298). *Certhia lepida* is based by Latham on "Le Grimpereau de Malacca" of Sonnerat (Voy. Ind. ii. 1782, p. 209, pl. 116, fig. 1), which, however, is not a Ruby-cheek, but the Sun-bird *Certhia malaccensis* Scop. (1786, ex Sonn.: Malacca) as stated by Shelley (1876–1889), Gadow (1884), and others.

No name appears to be available for the north-western Ruby-cheek defined by Mr. Baker, with type-locality Cachar, so it may be known as

Chalcoparia singalensis assamensis, subsp. nov.

The birds referred by Baker to the typical form (type-locality Malacca) should probably be known as *C. s. interposita* Rob. & Kl. (type-locality, Peninsular Siam, lat. 9° N.). *C. s. koratensis* Kl. (Eastern Siam and French Indo-China) does not appear to extend west of the Menam River.

Mr. Hugh Whistler forwarded the following descriptions of hitherto undescribed races:—

(1) **Cyornis tricolor notatus**, subsp. nov.

Differs from the typical form as follows:—♂, the underparts are a much purer grey and white, as compared with the warm olive and fulvous tints of the corresponding parts. ♀, the upper parts are a paler and clearer, less saturated, colour, both as regards the olive-brown of the body-plumage and the rufous of the tail. The lower parts are much whiter, especially on the chin, throat, and central abdomen, owing to the paler and less extensive olive wash of the sides.

Type in British Museum. ♂. Gund, Kashmir, 26 May, 1896 (J. Davidson Coll. No. 320). Reg. No. 1925. 12.23.836.

Distribution. Western Himalayas from Kumaon to Kashmir, and probably still farther west, as Whitehead obtained a specimen in winter at Kohat.

Observation. There is a very regular gradation between *Cyornis tricolor notatus* and *C. t. cerviniventris* Sharpe (Remta, Manipur). The typical form (Nepal) is, strictly speaking, an intermediate between these two, and birds from Nepal and Sikkim are, therefore, somewhat variable, individuals inclining sometimes to *notatus*, and sometimes to *cerviniventris*. Mr. N. B. Kinnear hinted at the necessity of recognizing this new race in 'The Ibis,' 1922, p. 505, and in working out my series from the N.W. Himalayas I came independently to the same conclusion.

(2) **Acrocephalus concinens hokræ**, subsp. nov.

In 'The Ibis,' 1928, pp. 449–453, in noting on the Asiatic members of the genus *Acrocephalus*, I came to the conclusion, with some reluctance, that the small Reed-Warblers of Kashmir must be attributed to *A. c. haringtoni* Witherby (Kaghan valley). Almost immediately after writing that note I had the unexpected pleasure of joining Admiral Lynes's expedition to Kashmir, and was able to procure a good series of the Kashmir bird. With this extra material before me I am compelled to reverse my previous opinion, and differentiate the Kashmir bird as follows :—

Acrocephalus concinens hokræ differs from *A. c. concinens* (Swinhoe) (Pekin) in having the upper surface olive-brown, as compared with the earth-brown tint of the latter. The fulvous wash on the lower plumage is more marked and more generally distributed. In the typical form it is paler, and tends to concentrate on the lower abdomen.

13 ♂. Bill from skull 14·5–15·5, wing 54·5–60, tail 56–60 mm.

14 ♀. Bill from skull 14·5–15·5 (once 16), wing 55–58·5, tail 55–60 mm.

That is to say, it is a slightly larger bird with a smaller bill than the typical race :—

9 ♂, bill 15–16·5, wing 54–56·5 ; 3 ♀, wing 54·5 mm.

A. c. stevensi Stuart Baker (Lakhimpur, N. Assam) is at once distinguished from both these races by the darker brown of the upper parts, and the browner and darker wash on the flanks. Size as in *A. c. concinens*, but with a smaller beak.

A. c haringtoni differs from the above three races in being more rufous in tint, this being particularly marked on the under surface, where the rufous wash on the flanks is very warm and extensive. Size as in *A. c. hokræ*.

A. c. concinens, *stevensi*, and *hokræ* all breed in swamps. *A. c. haringtoni* nests in undergrowth on hillsides far from water.

Type. ♀ in British Museum. 10 August, 1928. Hokra jheel, 5000 feet, Kashmir. (H. Whistler Coll. No. 7694.) Reg. No. 1930.~~4.6.1.~~

6/16/1/

Distribution. So far as is known, confined as a breeding bird to the swamps of the Vale of Kashmire, 5000 feet. Winter-quarters unknown.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 1930, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. 7.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY

No. CCCXLII.

The three-hundred-and-thirty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, May 14, 1930.

Chairman: Dr. P. R. Lowe.

Members present:—D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; G. Brown; P. R. E. Browne; A. L. Butler; H. P. O. Cleave; Lt.-Col. A. Delmé-Radcliffe; Capt. F. W. Dewhurst; Major S. S. Flower; K. Fisher; Lt.-Col. A. E. Hamerton; Dr. J. M. Harrison; R. E. Heath; Dr. E. Hopkinson; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); C. W. Mackworth-Praed (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); G. M. Mathews; T. H. Newman; F. R. Radcliffe; C. B. Rickett; P. R. Foulkes Roberts; Lord Rothschild; Marquess of Tavistock; B. W. Tucker; D. Seth-Smith; W. L. Sclater; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. Stevens; Capt. A. Urquhart; H. M. Wallis; C. de Worms; H. F. Witherby; C. R. Wood.

Guests:—Miss Delmé-Radcliffe, Capt. H. S. Flower; E. M. Nicholson; Bernhard Rench; Frau F. Rench; H. S. Swarth; R. C. F. Witherby.

Lord Rothschild delivered a personal message from Dr. Hartert to the Members of the B. O. C., and said how deeply Dr. Hartert regretted that illness prevented his attending in person. He had looked forward to this last opportunity of taking farewell of his friends before leaving England. He sent his greetings to all.

The Chairman remarked on the regularity with which Dr. Hartert had attended the meetings since the commencement, and how much he would be missed by everyone.

Mr. H. M. Wallis proposed, and Major Flower seconded, that the Secretary should send a letter to Dr. Hartert on behalf of the Club expressing their regret at his departure from England.

Lord Rothschild, F.R.S., exhibited the hitherto undescribed eggs of the Tristan da Cunha Thrush and Diving Petrel (*Nesocichla eremita* Gould and *Pelecanoides urinatrix dacunhæ* Nicoll), and made the following remarks:—

The *Nesocichla* eggs are typical Turdine eggs, and, except that they are longer and narrower, might easily be mistaken for heavily-spotted Blackbirds' eggs.

The *Pelecanoides* eggs are typical Petrels' eggs in colour and shell-texture, but are rather rounder than most Petrels' eggs.

The birds are exhibited with the eggs.

The Thrush is from Inaccessible Island, and therefore represents the subspecies *gordoni* Stenhouse; I am, however, not yet certain whether this race is really distinct.

The Diving Petrel is from Nightingale Island and is one of three specimens at Tring, and two out of six eggs are exhibited.

Mr. H. F. Witherby read a paper on an ornithological expedition made by him in company with his wife and Señor Gil Lletget in Eastern Spain in May and June 1929. The paper was illustrated with photographs of the types of country visited (taken by Mrs. Witherby), postcards and maps in colours, plates in books, and skins, which were all reflected in their natural colours on to a screen by means

of Messrs. Newton's Epidiascope. By this method not only were structural characters clearly shown, such as the difference in size and shape of the bills of *Emberiza schœniclus* and *E. tschusii*, and in the wings of *Calandrella brachydactyla* and *C. rufescens*, but colours came out truly, and even the different shades of brown and grey in a series of Sky-Larks (*Alauda arvensis*) were successfully shown.

The following is a *résumé* of Mr. Witherby's remarks:—

The Delta of the Ebro was first visited, but only a small portion was explored. The marshes, reed-beds, and lagoons here were found very interesting but wearisome to reach from Tortosa owing to the large expanse of country under rice cultivation. The most interesting birds here were as follows :—A colony of the Andalusian Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella r. apetzii*), hitherto chiefly known from the Marismas of the Guadalquivir, but recorded by Brehm from Murcia, though even this was 200 miles south of the mouth of the Ebro. A female obtained on 15 May was shown on the screen. This bird had a yoked egg in the oviduct, and a number of birds were observed singing and evidently breeding on rough ground near the coast. A Thick-billed Reed-Bunting, which had proved by comparison with specimens lent by Dr. von Jordans to be the same as *Emberiza tschusii witherbyi* from Majorca, was fairly common in and about the reed-beds. A Thick-billed Reed-Bunting had been reported from Valencia many years ago, but no specimens had been available for examination. This was the most westerly point in Europe where the species was found. Males were singing and most females probably incubating, but one was seen building on 17 May. The Moustached Warbler (*Lusciniola m. melanopogon*) was heard singing and seen, and was found more plentifully later in the Valencia, Albufera. A pair of Marbled Duck (*Anas angustirostris*) was identified. A number of commoner species was seen, amongst which Mr. Witherby mentioned Cisticola, Blue-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla f. iberiæ*), Great and Common Reed-Warblers (numerous and breeding), Marsh and Montagu's Harriers (common), Stilt, Redshank, and Kentish Plover

(common), Purple Heron, Black, Little, and Gull-billed Terns, and Common Coot, besides many migrants such as Common Redstart, Pied Flycatcher, Willow-Warbler, Turnstone, Little Stint, and Sanderling.

In some public gardens in the town of Tortosa a considerable breeding-colony of the Tree-Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) was noted, this being a very local breeding-bird in Spain.

The Valencia, Albufera, a large shallow lagoon with seven reed-islands of varying size, was next visited. This was thoroughly explored by permission of the Mayor of Valencia. On a strip of land dividing the Albufera from the sea, and called La Dehesa, large colonies of House-Sparrows nesting in pine-trees were a noticeable feature. In the rice-fields surrounding the Albufera few birds were noticed (*Cisticola j. cisticola* and *Motacilla f. iberiæ* on the dividing banks), but in the reed- and sedge-grown islands in the Albufera itself interesting species were found. *Lusciniola m. melanopogon*, as mentioned above, was breeding in some numbers most plentifully on an island with much thick sedge. This and the Ebro Delta were so far the only places it was known to breed in Spain. A good many Savi's Warblers (*Locustella l. luscinioides*) were seen on one island, which was very thick with sedge and high reeds. Males perched on high reeds were reeling continuously, the bird, with its mouth wide open, being seen long before any sound could be heard, which required a nearer approach. Bearded Tits (*Panurus b. biarmicus*) were constantly seen and heard, and Great and Common Reed-Warblers were common and nesting. Little Bitterns were nesting plentifully, Purple Herons were fairly common, and some Little Egrets and a few Buff-backed Herons were seen, but the keepers stated that these did not nest. A pair of Marbled Duck (*Anas angustirostris*) appeared to be very anxious, and may have had a nest, while several parties of male Red-crested Pochards (*Netta rufina*) were seen, and one female with a brood of recently-hatched young (25 May), the latter breeding in Spain only here and at Daimiel so far as is

known. The Marbled Duck, though plentiful in the extreme south of Spain, was not known to breed elsewhere in Europe, and it would be interesting to get proof of breeding at Valencia or the Delta of the Ebro, where pairs were seen.

One nest, with three eggs, of a Black Tern (*Chlidonias n. niger*) was found, but the keeper stated that these and Stilts bred later when the water went down and exposed large areas of mud.

From Valencia a journey inland was made, and the country round Cuenca was explored. Here were many valleys flanked by long ranges of cliffs, often castellated in form, usually overhung, and everywhere pitted with holes of all sizes. In parts, such as round Uña (about 3500 feet), where a stay was made, large pine forests covered the ground above the cliffs; in others the hills were thinly covered with scrub. In the valleys among other birds breeding were Bonelli's and the Garden-Warblers, Common Whitethroats, Redbreasts of the typical form (*Erithacus r. rubecula*), Tits (*Parus m. major*, *P. c. cæruleus*, *P. ater cabrerœ*, *P. c. mitratus*), and Long-tailed Tits which appeared to be *Æ. c. taiti*, but unfortunately only juveniles were obtained, Creepers (*Certhia b. ultramontana*), and Nuthatches (*Sitta a. hispanica*). An interesting assemblage of birds was nesting in the cliffs. Choughs (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) were very numerous, and Jackdaws about equally so. The Jackdaw was a very local breeding-bird in Spain, and it was interesting to find here and further north, round Alhama, large numbers breeding over a wider area. Specimens obtained were like *C. m. spermologus*. Other birds breeding in the cliffs were Blue Rock-Thrush, Black Redstart (very common), Black Wheatear, House- and Crag-Martins, Common and Alpine Swifts, and Kestrel. A Peregrine Falcon was seen on several occasions, but the eyrie was not located and the sub-species not determined. Neophrons were feeding young (beginning of June), which could be seen, as the nesting-holes had large openings. It was noted in a case of a single young one that the parent or parents returned twice within half an hour to feed it.

In the pine-forest Citrils (*Carduelis c. citrinella*) were fairly common, and parties of young were flying. Firecrests were often seen and a good many Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) were found and old and young were collected. The young were some two or three months old, but no actual proof of nesting was obtained. A pair of Hobbies (*Falco subbuteo*) was seen on 5 June. Several pairs of Common Redstarts were found in more open country, and birds obtained proved to be of the typical form (*Phœnicurus ph. phœnicurus*). On 7 June a nest with recently hatched young was found in a small hole in a rock, and the parent Common Redstarts were watched feeding them.

The next place visited was the Monastery de Piedra, near Alhama de Aragon (in south-west of Province Zaragoza). The monastery, now a hotel, was delightfully situated in a heavily-wooded garden, with numerous waterfalls leading down into a deep gorge. In this country the hills were partly cultivated and partly thinly covered with scrub, and were intersected by numerous narrow gorge-like valleys flanked by cliffs. The birds breeding in the cliffs were much the same as in the region of Cuenca, with the addition of some large colonies of Rock-Sparrows (*Petronia p. petronia*), a pair of which were also feeding young in a slit in the masonry of the monastery walls. Ravens were feeding well-feathered young in several nests in the cliffs (11 June). Among birds in the valley were Wrens, specimens of which proved to be *Troglodytes t. kabylorum*; Cetti's Warblers were common, and a Dipper was seen but not obtained. Reed-Warblers (*Acrocephalus s. scirpaceus*) were fairly common, and a nest had four somewhat incubated eggs on 11 June.

On the hills Spectacled Warblers (*Sylvia c. conspicillata*) were common and were feeding young. The Larks here were, however, of the greatest interest. A few Calandras were seen, Short-toed Larks (*Calandrella b. brachydactyla*) were common, as were Crested Larks, all seen and obtained being *Galerida th. theklæ*, while a number of Sky-Larks were also breeding. This was at an altitude of only about 2500 ft.

Sky-Larks bred in isolated colonies in the Spanish Peninsula and showed interesting differences. A series obtained on these hills at Piedra exactly matched two birds from Pamplona collected by Mr. Whistler and Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; they were very slightly browner than birds from the Sierras Guadarrama and Gredos and from the Pyrenees. Although these differences were noticeable and very interesting, they were, in Mr. Witherby's opinion, too slight to warrant separation by naming, and at present he preferred to call all the Sky-Larks breeding from the central mountains to the Pyrenees *Alauda a. cantarella*. With regard to the Crested Larks, Mr. Witherby remarked that those at Piedra were farther north than any previous record for *Galerida thecklæ* so far as he knew.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker forwarded the following communication :—

In the last issue of the 'Bulletin' Mr. Boden Kloss proposes a new name, *Briania*, for *Nitidula* Blyth, which is preoccupied by *Nitidula* Fabricius, Syst. Entw. p. 77, 1775. There is, however, a name already available, *Muscicapella* Bianchi, Ann. Mus. Zool. Acad. Sci. St. Petersb. vol. xii. pp. 14, 43, July 1907; new name for *Nitidula* Blyth.

Chalcoparia singalensis anamensis. I have already named this race *Chalcoparia singalensis rubinigentis*, Fauna of India, Birds, vol. vii. p. 282, March 1930. I here, also, point out the mistake made by me in regard to *Certhia lepida* Sparrman.

Acrocephalus concinens hokræ. I fear that for this bird also there is a Russian name available, *kaschmeriensis* of Sushkin, but reference to Russia for the publication is necessary before this can be decided. On the British Museum material I could not separate the Kashmir bird from typical *concinens*, but I am not surprised that the fine material at Mr. Whistler's disposal has enabled him to do so.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 1930, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. 7.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

Reading Room

PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

LIBRARY

No. CCCXLIII.

The three-hundred-and-thirty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, on Wednesday, June 11, 1930.

Chairman: Dr. P. R. Lowe.

Members present:—Miss C. M. Acland; E. C. Stuart Baker; W. Shore Bailey; D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; Hon. G. L. Charteris; H. P. O. Cleave; Miss J. M. Ferrier; Major S. S. Flower; Col. A. E. Hamerton; R. E. Heath; Dr. E. Hopkinson; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); Dr. G. Carmichael Low; N. S. Lucas; C. W. Mackworth-Praed (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. Manson Bahr; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; Lord Scone; D. Seth-Smith; Major M. H. Simonds; Major A. G. L. Sladen; A. Landsborough Thomson; W. H. Thorpe; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; B. W. Tucker; H. Whistler; H. F. Witherby; C. R. Wood; C. J. M. de Worms.

Guests present:—Col. F. M. Bailey; J. H. Fleming; Mrs. Flower; Miss L. S. Flower; Capt. H. S. Flower; Dr. C. E. Hellmayr; Dr. Ernst Mayr; H. S. Swarth; Dr. Alexander Wetmore.

Dr. Ernst Mayr gave an interesting account of his travels in New Guinea during the last few years, and described the habits of several of the more noteworthy birds he met with.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, who has made a special study of the birds of Haiti, briefly mentioned some of his more interesting discoveries in that West Indian island.

The Chairman, at the conclusion of these short addresses, said that the members of the Club were much indebted to both gentlemen for their interesting accounts, more especially as both speakers had been called upon to give an impromptu talk.

Mr. C. Boden Kloss sent the following note on the proper name of the Malayan Fairy Bluebird :—

In the first volume of his 'Birds of the Malay Peninsula,' the late Mr. H. C. Robinson listed the Malayan Fairy Bluebird as *Irena puella cyanea*, but stated that, for technical reasons, that name would shortly be changed. This was because he had noted that *Muscicapa cyanea* Begbie ('The Malayan Peninsula,' 1834, p. 517) was preoccupied by *Muscicapa cyanea* P. L. S. Müller (Syst. Nat. Suppl. 1776, p. 170=*Platystira cyanea*, Cat. Birds B.M. iv. p. 145).

The next name to be given to Malayan birds (s. s.) is *Irena malayensis* Moore (Cat. Birds E.-I. Co. Mus. i. 1854, p. 274). It is true it covered specimens from Java, Sumatra, and Malacca, but Walden practically indicated the last place as the type-locality by stating "*I. cyanea* (Begbie), Malayan Peninsula, 1834)=*I. malayensis* Moore" (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) v. 1870, p. 416). To prevent further question as to the meaning of "Malayan," as used by Moore in his description, I now select Malacca as *terra typica* of *Irena malayensis*.

This is the best course : had we attached *malayensis* to Javan or Sumatran birds, we should not only have required a new name for the Malayan race, but we should have had

to discard one or other of the well-known names *turcosa* Walden or *crinigera* Sharpe; whereas, by retaining these, *malayensis* rests on Malayan birds by elimination. It is particularly undesirable to drop the first, as *I. turcosa* Walden is the type of the genus *Irena* (*vide* Robinson and Kloss, Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam, v. 1924, p. 264).

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst exhibited an adult of the western Mediterranean Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus mauretanicus*) and its chick in down, and made the following remarks :—

The breeding-places of this Shearwater were known to be in the Balearic Isles, since Dr. von Jardaus had obtained birds there in the summer, and received a chick from a fisherman. Mr. Whistler and myself found it to be very common in the Pityusæ group this spring, and located several colonies there. The sites were much alike—in the jumble of huge boulders constituting cliff-falls at the base of sea-cliffs. In the middle of May chicks and adults were found, but most of the holes appeared to be then untenanted; possibly many chicks were beyond reach or even by that date had flown, as a flock of fully 100 birds were seen at sea. The larger size and more dusky markings on the underparts compared with *yelkouan* were demonstrated.

Chick in down. Upperparts dark sooty grey, underparts paler grey, whitish grey on chin and centre of breast. The chick of *Puffinus p. puffinus* is altogether a paler bird, while that of *Puffinus assimilis baroli* from the Canaries is decidedly a browner grey.

Mr. Witherby called attention to the fact that he had personally examined almost every example of this Petrel which had been recorded as *P. p. yelkouan* from the British Isles. Practically every one turned out to be *P. p. mauretanicus* (*cf.* 'British Birds,' vol. xv. p. 151). He also stated that he was inclined to think that *P. mauretanicus* would eventually prove to be a separate species.

The Chairman said he thought Mr. Witherby was right, and that he had himself always been in doubt as to the

position of *P. mauretanicus* as a subspecie of *P. p. puffinus*. He thought that, in considering the question of its specific rank, it was necessary to bear in mind that not so very long ago, geologically speaking, the Mediterranean consisted of two land-locked inland seas, a western and an eastern, divided by a causeway whose remains were now represented by Italy, Sicily, Malta, Corsica, and Sardinia. It seems possible that *P. mauretanicus* had originated in the western basin.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst forwarded the following communication :—

Thanks to the activities of Mr. J. K. Stanford, I.C.S., and Mr. Villar (Forestry Department), and their skinner Mr. Henricks, a small collection from the Arakan Yomas has been formed. Some of these are of great importance, as they are topotypes of birds described by Blyth many years ago and of which few, if any, specimens are in existence. In working at this collection I have so far been able to clear up a few points.

(1) Alcippe poioicephala phayrei Blyth (Arakan).

A series of this *Alcippe* shows clearly that the race inhabiting Assam is not *phayrei*. This latter differs in having much more rufous upperparts, especially on the lower part of the back and upper tail-coverts ; a more deep rufous edging to the wing ; the underparts have a brighter rufous wash. These must stand as

Alcippe poioicephala fusca Godwin-Austen (J. A. S. B. xlv. 1876, p. 197). Naga Hills.

Type examined in British Museum 95.7.14.2103.

Distribution.—Assam and Manipur.

Alcippe p. phayrei. Arakan (Taungup–Prome Road), Mt. Victoria, Upper and Lower Chindwin.

(2) The race of *Alcippe nepalensis* inhabiting the Arakan Yoma is also distinct, for which I propose the name

Alcippe nepalensis stanfordi, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Alcippe n. nepalensis* in having the back and exposed parts of wing and edges of tail a grey olive-brown almost with a greenish tinge instead of olive-brown ; the cheeks and crown a trifle paler ; underparts paler altogether. Size as in *nepalensis*.

Type ♂. Taungup–Prome Cart Road. Arakan Yoma, 2900 ft., 20 March, 1930.

Five specimens from Arakan and one from Mt. Victoria examined. Large series of *nepalensis* and *fraterculus*. Variation nil.

Distribution.—From Mt. Victoria southward through the Arakan Yoma.

Note.—This race differs from the typical race in much the same way as *A. p. phayrei* differs from *A. p. fusca*. From *A. n. fraterculus* it is even more widely different.

(3) The White-gorgeted Flycatcher from Arakan is evidently very distinct, though only one specimen is available. It is nearer *leucops*, with the white eye-brows, from Assam, than to the typical form with rufous superciliaries. It differs from *leucops* in the same manner as the two races of *Alcippe* species do—that is to say, the upperparts and wing-edges are much paler olive-brown, cheeks and ear-coverts paler grey, paler on the breast and flanks. Fortunately, Blyth has saved me the risk of describing a new race from a single specimen, as he has already named it

ANTHIPES GULARIS Blyth (J. A. S. B. xvi. pp. 122–184, Arakan),

and so the Arakan race will stand as

ANTHIPES MONILEGER GULARIS Blyth.

Errata.

Page 79, for *Chalcoparia singalensis anamensis* read *Chalcoparia singalensis assamensis.*

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 1930, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary, C. W. Mackworth-Praed, 51 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W. 7.

Annual General Meeting.

This will also be held at Pagani's Restaurant on Wednesday, October 8th, 1930, at 5.45 p.m. An Agenda and Balance Sheet will be issued in September.

Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, S.W. 7, and to give him their MSS. for publication in the 'Bulletin,' not later than at the Meeting.

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